TOLEDO WEEKLY BLADE

VOL. LIV. TOLEDO, OHIO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1885

Poetry.

A NEW YEAR'S SONG.

BY RICHARD H. STODDARD.

New Year, if you were bringing youth,
As you are bringing age,
I would not have it back; in sooth
I have no strength to wage
Lost battles over. Let them be;
Bury your dead, O Memory!

You can bring nothing will surprise,
And nothing will dismay;
No tears again in these old eyes,
No darkness in my day.
You might bring light and smiles instead,
If you could give me back my dead.

I have beheld your kin, New Year,
Full fifty times, and none
That was so happy and so dear
I wept when it was gone
Why should we weep when years depart
And leave their ashes in the heart?

Good by, since you are gone Old Year,
And my past life, good by!
I shed no tear upon your bier,
For it is well to die.
New Year, your worst will be my best;
What can an old man want but rest?

THE OLD AND THE NEW.

BY EDMUND D. GIBBS.

Out upon the frosty air, with merry music sweet,
The bells in churches' towers the coming New Year greet;
And loudly now their brazen tongues for better things are toiled,
While ringing in the New Year and ringing out the Old.

What earnest hopes their mellow tones, in chiming accents, tell;
What promises of better things rings out each loud-voiced bell;
With every note a hope is raised, in every clang so bold,
While ringing in the New Year and ringing out the Old.

They tell of future happiness, they sing of better times;
And every heart re-echoes their sweet, melodious lines,
And loudly in the distance each peal is grandly rolled,
While ringing in the New Year and ringing out the Old.

THE CHILD AND THE YEAR.

BY CELIA THAXTER.

Said the Child to the youthful Year:
"What hast thou in store for me,
O giver of beautiful gifts, what cheer,
What joy dost thou bring with thee?"

"My seasons four shall bring
Their treasures: the Winter's snows,
The Autumn's store, and the flowers of Spring,
And the Summer's perfect rose.

"All these and more shall be thine,
Dear Child—but the last and best
Thyself must earn by a strife divine,
If thou wouldst be truly blest.

"Wouldst know this last, best gift?
'Tis a conscience clear and bright,
A peace of mind which the soul can lift
To an infinite delight.

"Truth, patience, courage and love
If thou unto me canst bring,
I will set these all earth's ills above,
O Child, and crown thee a King!"

Our Story Teller.

THE FLYING SCUD.

To many persons there are few sensations more pleasant than that of rapid motion. As Arthur Granard belonged emphatically to that class of travelers, he invariably made a point of using the celebrated express train popularly known as the Flying Scud whenever business or pleasure caused him to journey away from the quiet little town of Blandcombe in which he lived.

In this preference he was not alone, for the Flying Scud was perhaps more used by first-class passengers—"express" fares notwithstanding—than any other train on that line; in fact, there were not a few residents in every county through which she ran who would almost as soon have thought of posting to London by road as of traveling in any other train than the Scud. There was no other train like it either on that line or on any other—at least, such was the popular belief. Naturally the officials were very proud of this, their premier train, and made no small fuss over it and all connected with it. Indeed, it seemed to be religiously felt by every one, high and low, that, although the carriages might be exactly similar to those of every other express, and the engine in no respect different, yet for the fastest train the world could show it was only proper to display more zeal than usual in performing even the commonest of their duties.

On one hot day in July—after joining the Scud at Winkfield, where she had arrived some twenty minutes late—Arthur Granard was sitting lazily back in a first-class compartment, dreamily comparing his fellow-passengers with others of pleasant memory, not much to the advantage of those present, for on this occasion the other occupants of the carriage seemed to him oppressively dull and commonplace.

A young man of dejected appearance and fast asleep was huddled up in the corner on the opposite seat, his back to the engine; a schoolboy sat on Granard's right, devouring "Midshipman Easy;" and a snoring Frenchman was slumbering lustily on his left; while the remaining places on the opposite seat were occupied by a newly married couple—the most hopeless of companions. At least Granard concluded that such was their condition, for they both looked fagged and bored, and seldom exchanged remarks, yet both seemed ready to attend lovingly to anything the other might say; but the impetuous light of wooing and being wooed was no longer in their eyes, so what could they be but a couple who had just passed through the perilous days of interdependence peculiar to a honeymoon?

The man was a tame-looking creature, without a single strong feature in his face, unless a thin sprinkling of light whiskers—of the hue vulgarly dubbed "ginger"—could be so described.

The wife was better. She was a pretty little woman of a plump, homely type, dressed in clothes which seemed a little too smart, though her general appearance was not altogether unpleasing.

But conversation was clearly out of the question with any one of them, and Granard soon laid back in his seat with a yawn, and presently gave himself up to enjoying to the full what seemed to him the best pace he had ever known the train travel at. He was just about to set himself to ascertain the speed by counting the quarter-mile posts when the glare of the midday sun was suddenly exchanged for darkness as the Flying Scud dashed into Dorton tunnel.

"Dorton already. Didn't think we'd got so far," he said to himself. "I haven't noticed the down fast pass us yet. She must be pretty late, too."

It was usual for the Scud to pass the express as speedy as herself before reaching Dorton; and Granard never failed to notice with interest the rapid swishing sound produced as they flashed past each other.

When the daylight burst in on him again, as the train rushed madly out into open ground, he gathered up his newspaper, and was settling down to its contents, when suddenly a violent shock, a crushing, grinding, shivering shock, sharply roused him from listlessness to painful intentness. The sudden concussion and the continued violent motion set him literally dancing on his seat.

He knew well enough what the cause was. He was a railway engineer by profession, and derailments on the temporary tramways used in railway making were sufficiently frequent to [illegible] thoroughly familiar with [illegible] shock caused an engine or [illegible] the track. In an instant he grasped the fact that some part of the train had left the rails, and, conscious of the speed at which they were moving, he knew that a terrible crash was imminent and inevitable.

Shouting to his fellow passengers, "Hold on, every one!" he quickly gripped the arm-rest on his left with all his strength, stiffened himself in his place by placing his feet firmly against the opposite seat, and threw his right arm across his chest, elbow outward, to protect his face as far as possible from injury in the coming smash. He had not prepared himself an instant too soon! At that moment a huge portmanteau came crashing against the door-frame, and a splash of other luggage seemed to fly past the window, followed by a cloud of dust and coal; then a fierce gust of hot steam burst through the open window, covering them all for a moment as if in a black cloud. The Frenchman yelled out a fearful oath, the bride uttered a piercing shriek, and the schoolboy screamed and frantically clutched Granard round the body.

Scarcely had the steam covered them when the carriage received a tremendous blow on the right, which turned it sharply over its side. A yard or two further—with the carriage being dragged unwillingly along in this position and all was over; the train's great momentum was used up, and one of the world's most famous expresses, which not ten seconds before had been plunging along full of grace and power, at probably over rather than under the favorite pace of a "a mile a minute," lay wrecked and stilled—a centre of death, suffering and ruin.

Granard had wedged himself so tightly into his seat that when the carriage was overturned he was not displaced, but the somnolent youth opposite was thrown with great force directly upon Arthur Granard's right elbow, thereby receiving a merited rebuke for his ill-judged movement. Dazed with sleep and mad with fright, this warthy grabbed Granard by the throat and and shouted, "Murder, murder!" in the wildest manner, at the same time doing his utmost to strangle his supposed antagonist. Now Granard was not particularly pugnacious or prone to take offence, but just then he felt in no humor for being throttled and accordingly resented the liberty. Being of considerable strength and stature, and in first rate condition (having the day before won a two-mile sculling race at Blandcombe regatta, for which he had been in training some six weeks or more), he was soon able to free himself from his fellow-passenger's too close embrace by gripping his arms just above the elbows and crunching the muscles there until the hands were powerless. Then, stepping across the carriage and standing each foot on an arm-rest, he thrust him bodily through the open window, now above them. On being shown the door in this fashion, a new idea seemed to seize on the ejected one, for he scambled out and flung himself down to the ground as if a thousand mischiefs were behind him. Had he broken a limb in his haste an enlightened jury would probably have awarded him heavy damages "for injuries received in the Long Houghton accident!" On looking down between his legs to see how the others were faring, Granard noticed that the Frenchman had already wriggled out, while the poor little bride was huddled in the corner with her lubberly husband sprawling helplessly upon her, apparently too unnerved to make any effort to get out. To see him so, filled Granard with indignant disgust. In a moment he reasoned to himself that the principle of counter-irritation need not be confined in its application to mustard plaster, toothache tinctures, and suchlike mute agents, but might well be extended for the cure of mental paralysis and nervelessness; that if "like cures like," a shock might undo mischief a shock had caused. Acting on this deduction, he grasped the hat-rails on either side to maintain his balance, and then administered to the wretched husband a sharp, decisive kick in the back, shouting at the same time, "Hand up that lady!"

The effect was instantaneous. He grasped his partner with sudden energy and promptly passed her up to Granard, who had meanwhile forced open the door to allow more room for her to get out. As he lifted her out, and was in the act of passing her down to a gentleman on the ground, a thought came suddenly into his mind which brought his heart into his throat and seemed to freeze his very blood. He remembered the down express. The down fast had not passed them yet!

He saw with horror that nearly all the passengers were now standing on the down track! What a smash would follow if the coming express should dash in upon them unchecked! He knew it was already overdue. Could it be stopped? Oh, that it might be late enough to give him time to try! He sprang forward with a wild absorbing energy.

He knew that in the guard's van there should be a bundle of flags—red, green, and white—for use in emergencies, and these to be successful he must have. Rushing past the carriage in front of the one he had leaped from and round the frame of the luggage-van—now lying across both lines a complete wreck—he came upon the guard, who, strange to say, had escaped death, and was then standing—an arm broken, a foot crushed, and his face cut—in the act of handing his flags to an elderly man of military bearing. Granard waited for no instructions or requests—he knew as well as any official could tell him what was to be done, and minutes were too precious to be wasted—but, snatching the flags from the old gentleman with a hasty "Give them to me, I can run faster!" he bounded off up the line on his momentous errand.

The down train was not yet in sight. There was still a chance of stopping her in time.

The flags were firmly tied up as a parcel, together with a box of detonators. Granard found, to his annoyance, that he had no knife with him; and, tug as he would, he could neither break nor undo the stout cord which bound them together. After running about a hundred yards he overtook a passenger running in the same direction, whom he at once recognized as the man he had just ejected from the carriage.

"Lend me your knife!" he cried, hastily. The man replied with an ejaculation which showed he had evidently not yet recovered from his fright.

"Your knife to cut this!" Granard roared, as he ran beside him.

"What a mercy we weren't killed!" simpered the lunatic. Granard gripped his arm viciously, and shook him till he realized the situation and handed out his knife. It was the work of but a few seconds to cut the cords and return the knife; then, throwing away the green and the white flags, Granard sprang ahead, now full of stronger hope that he might get distance enough between himself and the wreck to enable the coming express to stop.

He was soon clear of the deep curved cutting in which the disaster occurred, and passed on to a long embankment from which a wide stretch of country could be viewed. He looked anxiously in the direction of the line, and presently espied among some distant trees a thin streak of steam, evidently issuing from an advancing train.

It was the express! What if the driver failed to see his signal! He sickened at the thought. But he should hear if he did not see. There was yet a full mile rail as he ran. Then he saw the approaching train, advancing at a terrific pace, swing around a bend in the line ahead, and come into full view. He had just then reached a small bridge which carried the railway over a lane below. He leaped on the bridge parapet to make himself more conspicuous, and excitely waved the red flag of danger up and down. The driver's keen eyes espied the warning signal while his train was yet some two or three hundred yards from it; and, instantly shutting off the steam, he sounded three hoarse blasts on the brake-whistle, to which the guards promptly responded by applying their brakes with all their strength. It was a grand sight! The magnificent engine, full of life and glowing with color, came tearing along at the very top of her speed; then suddenly the majestic stream of white cloud, which had been gracefully sailing in her wake, disappeared, and she, as if her wheels had all at once been paralyzed, began to quiver like a thing in fear. A cloud of dust arose from the line, and a shower of sparks flew out from the rails over which the wheels were now rolling unwillingly, or not at all, while the guards' vans behind were carried along with their wheels perfectly still, immovably skidded, and scattering, as if in indignant protest, a shimmer of sparks though the thick black dust which was rising from the ground below them.

"Thank God! it's done!" breathed Granard to himself, as he fell rather than stepped from his elevated position. For a moment he sat on the ground, for he could not stand; every limb was trembling and every nerve quivering; though until the signal had been seen he had known no lack of nerve or muscle. But now that his task was done, and the train was saved, he found himself all at once exhausted and prostrate. He saw that the train had stopped and that the guards were coming back to him. He shook himself together and walked unsteadily toward them. His throat was too parched to speak, but he pointed forward toward the cutting, and passed forward to the engine, where he got a drink from the driver's tea-can. Then he found voice to say, "The Scud's come to grief." They all stood aghast, scared at the news. The driver was the first to speak.

"Is she off the road, sir?"

"Sure to be. I saw one of the engine men lying dead with his head nearly knocked off: but I remembered your train a minute after the smash, and ran off as fast as I could." They expressed their great gratitude, and one of them produced a pocketbook in which he asked Granard to write his name and address. They then uncoupled their engine and drove slowly up to the scene of the disaster.

What a sight met their eyes! The framing of the leading guard's van was lying nearly square across the two lines, two of the three pairs of wheels torn from under it; the upper part of the van had been burst away, and most of the luggage scattered some fifty yards further back. A few portmanteaus were tightly pinned to the floor of the wrecked van, by a pair of the engine bogie-wheels, which had somehow been precipitated amongst them. The carriage next the van was off the rails and partly twisted round, but still upright. The next carriage—that in which Granard had ridden—was turned more than half way over, and under it lay one of the heavy engine forgings, known as the bogie frame, doubtless the cause of the overthrow; the other carriages, though all damaged more or less, had not been derailed.

The engine—or, rather, what remained of her—they found some fifty rods further back. It had been the first to leave the rails, and had plunged for some distance along the heavy longitudinal timbers on which the rails were laid until it had swerved into the yielding gravel outside, at which point the tram behind had literally kicked it out of the way, propelling it with great violence half-way up the slope of the cutting, when it had fallen back upside down. In the final shock all the small wheels and their frames had been torn from the body and hurled away in different directions, one piece striking the passing carriages, as already described, and causing the abrupt stoppage of the train.

The wreck itself was a sad spectacle; but one still more sad was the sight of the poor driver lying on the ground near the engine, screaming with pain, and evidently dying. The poor fellow's stomach was torn and exposed to an extent which clearly showed those who were holding him that his case was hopeless. Before long his cries ceased, and his dead body was quietly laid under a railway rug beside that of his fireman, whose death had been instantaneous.

On returning to the scene of the disaster, Granard looked about him to see what service he could render. Almost the first person he noticed was his fellow passenger the bridegroom, who was apparently searching the different compartments for something or another. On being asked how his wife was, he replied that she felt very bad—and so did he. Granard found that he had left his poor little wife sitting on the ground just where she had got out. Her forehead had an ugly cut on it, probably caused by her husband's hat-brim, and she was feeling very sick and faint. He helped the little woman up the steep slope and into a field on the other side of the railway fence, where she found a cooler place, in the shade of a hedge, to rest at till arrangements were made for continuing the journey. Then, on returning into the cutting, he saw a tall, handsome girl making her way along by the wreck, looking rather confusedly here and there, and apparently alone. "Can I help you in any way?" he asked, raising his hat to her as he stopped.

"Oh, thank you very much. I'm sure I don't know," she replied, frankly. "I am looking for my luggage."

"Allow me, then, to show you the most likely place to find it at. Most of the luggage got scattered about the line some distance behind."

As they walked back she told him she was traveling alone, and was on her way to her home in Barcastle, of which place her father was the rector. She had but one box—a large tin one with a curved lid, and painted brown. Near the overturned engine Granard found a piece of tin crumpled up like a crushed sheet of brown paper which he saw had been a box-lid, as a torn hinge was hanging from one edge of it. He turned it over to see the color.

"Was your box painted like that?" he asked of his companion.

"Yes, just that color; but it was a large box," she answered.

"Oh, this was a good-sized lid once," he remarked, as he placed it across a rail and endeavored to stamp it into shape with his heel; "the box it came off is probably not far away." They presently found the body of the box, standing the right side up and with the contents undisturbed, with the exception of the top layers, which had been whisked off with the cover.

As a cry of sorrowful recognition escaped his companion, Granard knew that Miss Righton had at last found her owner. She dropped beside the bulged and battered trunk, and attempted almost effectually to set her things in order once more. Granard watched her with great growing satisfaction. He thought he had never seen a face so full of strength, and yet so refined and [illegible] as hers. Presently the [illegible] of steam, evidently issuing from an advancing train.

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Humor.

JACOB'S LONG WOOING.

The "Tough Time" the Good Man Had in Getting the Wife He Wanted.

"We had a bully story down at the Home Sunday last," said the newsboy, as he begged a cigarette from the reporter. "T'was 'bout Jacob, an' the tough time he had in gettin' er wife.

"All right. I'll tell it ter yer. Yer see, Jacob an' Esaur was brothers, an' Esaur was dead agin Jacob 'cause he allus got the biggest slice of pie and wore red top boots.

"An' Esaur seez seez he:

"'I'll do him up.'

"An' his mother sez ter Jacob, sez she:

"'Go an' see yer uncle.'

"She didn't give him nothin' ter pawn, 'cause they wore nothin' ter speak of in them days 'cept ear-rings.

"'Sides,' sez she 'I'm not stuck on the gurls in this naborhood, an' ef you went out onto the plains you might ketch er gurl what had squatted onto half er section or stumtain'.'

"Jacob's uncle, Laban, lived out West an' hed two daughters, and the ol' man an' the ol' woman put up a job that he shud marry one of his cousins. After puttin' a couple of san'wiches in his pocket he sherried, an' he slep' in box-cars and dreamed an' et blackberries. They was just gittin' ripe. An' he tramped till he kem to er gang of shepherds what was tendin' sheeps. An' he sez to them, sez he:

"'D'ye know an ol' party roun' here called Laban?'

"'An' they sez, sez they, all to onct:

"'This be he's range, an' them's he's sheeps.'

"'How's he's health?' sez Jacob.

"'He's purty tol'ble, thank ye,' sez they.

"'Jest then Jacob threw his glims over the perary, an' there was Rachel comin' with Laban's sheep to the well for water. She lucked for all the worl' like Mary an' her little lam', only she'd more lam's than Mary. She'd her hair banged an' hed 'er dress made all of one piece, with the skirt throwed over her left shoulder. She was ez purty ez a yaller ribbin. Ja cob was a goner right there.

"An' he sez, sez he:

"'Ah there!'

"An' she sez, sez she:

"'Don't stay there.'

"An' Jacob make a gran'rush an' kist her right there 'fore the gang, and 'fore she knowed 'bout it. Guess she wouldn't a kicked nohow, 'cause Jacob was no slouch hisself, and he wore red socks. An' he tol' her who he was, an' she sez, sez she:

"'I'll go an' tell dad.'

"An' Laban was glad ter see he's nevvy. An' Jacob sez, sez he:

"'Uncle, I wants ter work.'

"An' Laban sez, sez he:

"'Pitch in.'

"Laban's other daughter, Leah, was an' ol' maid an' had weak eyes. In other respecks she was doin' quite well. Jacob made er good han', and Laban was 'shamed to give him but he's board an' washin'. An' he sez, sez he:

"'Wot's yer sal'ry?'

"An' Jacob spoke up es one man, an' he sez, sez he:

"'I want's yer daughter Rachel,' sez he.

"An' Laban sez, sez he:

"'Not much!'

"An' Jacob purposed to work seven years for board an' clo's an' cigarette money ef he cud hev her at the end of that time.

"An' Laban sez, sez he:

"'It's a go.'

"An' at the end of seven years Laban hed a barbecute, an' invited all the naburs. Speeches was made, an' there was a great time. The presents was numerus an' costly; an' the table groaned. Nite kem on, an' they hed no 'lectric light nor coal-ile in them days, an' the weddin' tuk place in the dark.

"In the mornin' Mrs. Jacob slipped outer bed, an' she sez, sez she, sorter to herself:

"'Where's my eye water?' sez she.

"An' then Jacob raised up onto his elbow an' he saw that he'd bin tuk in. He hustled into his pants an' went out. Laban was innercintly shellin' corn for ther chickens in the back yard.

"An' Jacob sez, sez he:

"'Ol' man, yer shifted the cut on me las' nite, an' my gurl was lost in the shuffle.' An' Jacob was hot under the collar.

"An' Laban sez, sez he:

"'Don't let yer shirt bile over the waistban' of yer pants. Keep yer temper.'

"An' he guv him a long line of conversashin, an' then he sez, sez he:

"'You've got one of my gurls now, an' ef you're so dead stuck on thuther yo kin hev both ef ye works fur me seven years more.'

"An' Jacob sez, sez he:

"'I've nuthin' pertickler to do, an' I might ez well 'muse myself that way ez not.'

'An the sucker served seven years more an' then he was a Mormon an' moved out to Salt Lake, I guess. An' that's all."

Couldn't Stop That Boy.

Romeyn, a Montclair, N. J. boy, aged five, converses with his friend of equally mature years, as follows:

Romeyn—My pa is going to get me a goat.

Fairchild—I've got 20 goats.

R.—Where are they?

F.—Oh, they're down in New York in pa's office.

R.—Why don't they bring them here?

F.—They're sick.

A pause. Finally Romeyn speaks:

I saw Anthony's Nose last summer.

Fairchild—I saw Anthony himself.

R.—Anthony's Nose is a rock, and it broke off and fell into the water.

F.—I saw it fall.

Romeyn's mother, an interested listener, at this point deemed it expedient to interpose with a moral lesson. "Why, Fairchild," said she, "did you never hear of Ananias and Sapphira?"

F.—I know them both.

R's. mother—You know, Fairchild, they were struck dead for telling lies.

F.—Yes, I saw them struck.

R's. mother—Fairchild, do you know where they went? (Very impressively)—They went to hell.

F. I know it. I saw them go.—*New York Herald.*

Alike the Young Folks.

"I suppose, John, that you intend to have a Christmas tree for the children?" said a Maryland housewife to her good man.

"Oh, yes, I suppose so. It only cost $40 tenpence the carpets after last year's tree, a spree-bagatelle."

"I know; but then they did enjoy it so."

"Yes, indeed, and so did I. But you'll have to play Santa Claus. I'm not going to do myself up in fur robes again. What a guess!"

"Well, I'll be Santa Claus and the whole business, but I'm going to have a little mayhem."

"I won't be there."

"No Home Resistance in Abraham.

"Black is white as money"—I do not think there are so many dummy ladies in Boston after all.

"Thine—Yes!

Miscellany.

MOSER'S AUTOMATIC DOG.

The Happy Thought That Came to a Newly Married Man.

Jack Moser rented a cottage in order to please his wife. Jack had set his heart upon having an able-bodied dog for protection, but as he had been married only a few months, and the honeymoon still retained some of its saccharineness, he was willing to make one more sacrifice to augment his wife's happiness. She said she would as lief have a robber or a tramp in the house as to have a cross dog about. But he didn't dismiss the dog from his mind; and one day, while reflecting upon the feeling of security such an acquisition would afford, he conceived an idea. He would have a dog built according to a design of his own invention. It might be a little more expensive than a genuine dog, but at this early era of his married life money was not so much an object as Mrs. Moser's felicity.

The automatic animal was successfully built. It was of the bull dog brand, with a redundancy of head and a visage as savage as a steam-power sausage-chopper. One eye was blood-shot and the lid swollen, and one ear had a ragged edge as if it had been "chawed" in an old feud. Its jaws were flabby, the undamaged eye had a wicked glare, and the whole contour of the brute was one of repulsiveness in the first degree. Observation had taught Jack that when a man gained a dog's confidence he instinctively patted the animal on the head. The interior department of Jack's dog, therefore, was fitted up with machinery of a very sensitive character, which was connected with a wire running from a button on the animal's head, and when this button was slightly pressed, the internal contrivance would go off like an alarm-clock—one of those diabolical inventions that wakens up every member of the family except the servant girl in whose room the infernal machine is at work. When the dog was patted on the head, the brute would make a slight move, open its jaws, and emit a prolonged and sonorous growl that would cause the cold shivers to meander along your spinal colum.

The dog was brought home, and Jack got his wife to test it. She said it was an ugly brute, but she wasn't afraid of no home-made dog; and when she patted it on the head, at her husband's suggestion, and was greeted with an unexpected and blood curdling howl, she let escape an ar-piercing shriek, and fainted dead way.

The dog was an overwhelming success. It was regarded as an offensive partisan by every member of the tramp fraternity who halted at the gate and threw a hungry glance toward the cottage.

One day Jack and his wife left home for a short visit to the seaside. The house was securely closed, and the automatic dog planted where it would do the most good. That very evening a couple of dirt begrimed tramps stopped in front of the cottage. One of them unlatched the front gate, and was about entering, when suddenly his gaze became riveted on an object in the path.

"Whe-ew!" he softly whistled, backing away from the fence. "Great Cæsar, Jimmy! just take a squint at the size of the brute!"

"Yer not afeerd of him, are yer, Bill?" said his companion.

"But look at the wicked eye of him! He's a terror from Terrorville. None of him in mine, if you please, Jim."

"Yer a coward, Bill," said the tramp addressed as Jim. "Yer got no grit. See yer uncle make friends with the terror."

And Jim cautiously approached Moser's dog, using all the wheedling terms of endearment at his command.

"Poor old fellow! Come here, my fine beauty!"

Then he whistled encouragingly, and snapped his fingers cajolingly.

"S-s-p-p-p-p-r-t," he chirped, placing his hand caressingly on the dog's head. "Ho, you old fel——"

At this juncture the dog's body moved forward, his mouth opened, and an awful, nerve distracting "Brrrrr Grrrrrr!" issued from its throat, and the tramp dashed out of the yard with so much impetuosity and unexpected celerity that he left a portion of his tattered garments clinging to the gate-latch.

"It's mighty lucky fur yer, Jimmy, that the big-headed cur didn't lunch off yer hind leg," said Bill, as the twain hurriedly resumed their journey.

Next morning Mrs. Moser's mother arrived. Wishing to give her daughter a little surprise, she had not apprised her of her intended visit. It was Mrs. Moser's mother, however, who received the surprise. And it wasn't so very little, either. She saw the dog as soon as she opened the gate, and stood undecided whether to advance or retreat.

"What an ugly monster!" she mused "And Caroline would never have a dog about the house, either! It's very strange. But maybe it's somebody's animal that has wandered into the yard.'

Then she closed the gate between herself and the dog, raised her umbrella threateningly, and cried:

"Git out! Go 'way, you nasty beast! Shoo! Scat, you dirty dog!" But Moser's dog didn't "scat" worth a halfpenny.

"Carrie! Car o-line!" called the old lady; but for obvious reasons there was no response. Caroline was several miles distant.

"Well, I'm not going to stand here all day," finally said Moser's wife's mother, with an air of determination. "I'll see if I can't make friends with the homely canine. Come, Towser," she coaxed. "Good doggy! Nice old Carlo! Here, Prince, come here!" Then the old lady, having almost unconsciously advanced within reach of the dog, slowly extended her hand and began to pat it on the head. "You nice old do——"

"Ouch! Fire! Murder! Git out! Caroline! Oh-oooo-oo!" she screamed, as the dog's deep bay, "Grrrrrrrr!" seventeen yards long by a foot in circumference, pierced the adjacent atmosphere. The best previous time made by a badly-scared woman in getting out of a front yard is not on record, but Moser's wife's mother beat it. By about twenty-nine seconds, at least. She was in a hurry. She didn't say so, but she was, all the same.

"Oh, my!" she gasped, when she reached the middle of the road and discovered that the dog had not followed her, "I thought I was a dead woman, sure!"

Then she looked at her satchel, which she had stashed around wildly in her flight, and which had burst open by coming in contact with the gate-post.

"I declare if the jar of currant jelly I bought Caroline doesn't lay smashed all to bits in the yard! John Moser heard that I was coming, and got that horrid ugly monster on purpose—I know he did! I'll go right back home and never set foot in the ungrateful wretch's house again!"

And she left by the next train, fairly boiling with anger; and one of the first things she did upon her arrival home was to make an alteration in her will.

The next visitor at the Moser cottage was a tax collector, who had a variegated experience. He boldly opened the gate, leisurely closed it after him, and started up the path, mechanically fumbling in an inside pocket.

"Je-rue-sa-lem!" he ejaculated, as the automatic contrivance encountered his whilom. "I'll bet that overgrown dog is none the worse for the gratuitous benefit of hook canvas and fun gentlemen. Here, Bull! Come here, old fellow!" he cooed. "If I had [illegible] savage-looking [illegible] the dog, using [illegible] and cautiously [illegible] imal's head.

There was a true [illegible] collector was safely [illegible] fore the cadences of Mo[illegible] B-r-r-r!" had died away. [illegible] collector time was money, [illegible] same, he concluded to remain [illegible] and think about one thing an[illegible] until the dog retired, or some o[illegible] to his rescue. Five minutes dev[illegible] vigorous yelling convinced him t[illegible] Moser cottage was unoccupied.

The sun had sunk behind the western hills bathing the landscape in a flood of purple haze, and tall trees in an adjacent meadow were darkly silhouetted against the hazy skies, but the tax collector didn't enjoy the scenery to any considerable extent, for his position in the tree was becoming very uncomfortable, and the dog was still there. And he was annoyed by the animal's harrowing and persistent silence. Finally the tax collector concluded to venture down the tree and take his chances. The feat was accomplished with a rapidly beating heart, and when he safely reached the gate without the dog making a demonstration, his courage quickly returned and assumed huge proportions.

"Perhaps the infernal brute is asleep," he reflected. "I must have revenge." And the thoughts of revenge made him feel very brave indeed. He left the gate partly open, to permit of a hasty escape, and then proceeded to gratify his thirst for revenge. "The animal is as quiet as a statue, and I'll just give him one vigorous kick for luck, and then glide out of the gate like lightning."

And he bestowed the kick. Only one. It was a hearty, one-hundred-pound-to-the square-inch kick, but it was enough for the tax collector. One million dollars in cash would not have induced him to give Moser's dog another kick. Not with the same foot, anyway. That part of the programme relating to gliding out of the gate like lightning was omitted. But the tax collector did some gliding nevertheless. He glode around on one foot, nursing the other with his hands, and yelled like a thousand throats at a slugging match. He thought his toes were telescoped into his ankles, but they were not. Two of them were broken, and two others badly bent, but the doctor who dressed his injuries said he thought his patient could dispense with a crutch in about two months.

The tax collector's fate should teach a man to refrain from attempting to kick the stuffing, and other machinery, out of a sleeping dog—especially one of the automatic breed. It is a mean advantage to take of the unsuspecting animal.

When Jack Moser returned home, his dog, like the Rhineland watch, was "still there," showing no signs of hunger or fatigue. When Jack saw the mashed jar of currant jam and a dozen tax demand notes lying about the yard, he quickly surmised that his dog had attended strictly to business during his absence. He counted plates having his automatic dog patented, but when he hears from his mother-in-law he will probably change his mind.

OLD MIDDLETON.

An Old Negro Whose Afflictions Did Not Teach Truthfulness.

Old Middleton walked slowly along the street. It had been some time since his last visit to the city, and he looked with an air of interest at every little improvement that had been made since the last time he had honored the Capital of Arkansas by mingling with its inhabitants. Occasionally, though, the old man would cease his inspection of improvements, scratch his head, and surrender himself to a meditation which seemed to be fruitful of great perplexity.

"Why, how are you, Middleton?" said the Secretary of State.

The old man started, as though he had been suddenly aroused from a sound sleep, and said:

"Howdy, Mars 'Lias; howdy, sah.

"Where do you keep yourself? I haven't seen you for some time."

"I stays mighty close now, Mars 'Lias. I kaint walk like I uster could. Some time ergo I broke the spring bone in one o' my heels."

"You did what?"

"I says dat I broke de spring bone in one o' my heels, sah. What yer laughin' at? Ain' yer got not no more feelin' den ter laugh at er pusson's 'flickshun? Is dat de way der Dimmercrats gwineter do jes' 'case da's in de power?"

"I was not laughing at your affliction, Uncle Middleton."

"Den whut yer laughin' at?"

"At the idea of a man having a spring-bone in his heel."

"Mebbe yer doan' blebe it."

"Of course I don't."

"Wall, dat's whar yer shows yer ignunce, Mars 'Lias; an' now, ter be plain wid yer, I doan see whar'to da 'lected yer to sich er 'portant office. Yer oughter know better den ter talk dat way. Er deer an' er man bof hab got spring-bones in der heels."

"What is the shape of the spring-bone in a man's heel?"

"Wall, it's sorter like de back-spring o' er knife. It's de fines' metal o' any bone in de human 'tastomy, sah, an' ef it wan't fur dem springs, folk's would' walk jes like da had wooden laigs; da woul', sah, fur er fack."

"How did you break one of your springs?"

"Well, sah, I wuz chasin' de haugs outer de fiel' an' in jumpin' ober er fence I struck my heel ergin er stump. Snap! went the spring an' I gunter turn roun' an' roun' like er steamboat wid one wheel smashed. I knowd den dat my bes' days wuz done ober."

"Couldn't you have another spring made?"

"I thought I could, an' I ploved er cullud gemmerman whut wuz er mighty fine 'sishun. He said dat he had made one outer steel fur er white man, but after tinkerin' 'round fur er while an' chargin' me $10, he gin up de jaub an' quit'"—*Arkansaw Traveler.*

POT POURRI.

Right Funny Bits from Harper's Bazar.

Winnie's mother had been discussing with a caller the pros and cons of marrying widowers who were supplied with a stock of little ones. After the visitor had gone, Winnie thoughtfully remarked:

"Mamma, I don't know, but I should be willing to marry a widower with false children—if they were handsome."

Ambitious sixteen-year-old (confidentially). "Say, old man, Chum and I and Charley are going to raise a moustache."

Lordly twenty-year-old (gently stroking his downy upper lip). "Well, which of you fellows will get it?"

A. S. "Which one will get it? Why, all of us will have one."

L. T. "Oh, beg pardon; I thought it would take all three of you to ra

RISING SUN STOVE POLISH
Has Many of Polish, Saving Labor, Clean Durability and Cheapness. Its sales Merit. Prosperity and Contentment.

JAMES PYLE'S PEARLINE
The BEST COMPOUND EVER INVENTED FOR WASHING CLOTHING.
and everything else, is Hard or Soft Water, without danger to fabric or hands.
Pearline Saves Time and Soap, manufactures, and is of great value to economists. Sales are not urged upon you. PEARLINE is the only safe article, and Jewis bear the name of JAMES PYLE, New York.

A JOKE ON MARK TWAIN.

A Reminiscence of His Reporting Days on the Virginia City Enterprise.

When Mark Twain was a reporter on the Virginia City *Enterprise*, nearly a quarter of a century ago, Robert Pulford Annie Pixley's husband, was an actor of considerable local fame. Pulford resolved to "do" Twain very well. He decided that the author of "Innocents Abroad" was so humorist then, and that he was a good subject to work on. Our men had stretched blankets over a long ladder (just the height of a man) and placed it on the sidewalk. When the actor-humorist and his victim came along Pulford and Twain took up the ladder and began to walk down the street with it. Twain was to throw it over as soon as Pulford gave the signal. Pulford, however, was a little too quick for Twain, and when the latter was in the middle of the street Pulford threw the ladder down on the sidewalk and fled. Twain was left in the middle of the street with the ladder on his shoulders. Pulford was arrested for the trick, and Twain was the principal witness against him. Pulford was fined $50 and costs, and Twain was the only man who laughed at the joke.

A SOUTHERN CONSCRIPT.

He Tells His Tale.

To the Editor of the State Camp Fire:

I have been a subscriber to the BLADE for some time, and have found it to be a good paper, but I can raise a dollar. I am especially interested in the CAMP FIRE department, and would like to see a few more letters from the boys who wore the gray. I am a North Carolinian myself, and was conscripted into the army in 1862. I was in Dix's division, and was in the battle of Kinston, and was captured there. I was then sent to Newbern, and from there to Point Lookout, Md., where I remained until the close of the war. I was then sent to Richmond, and from there to Danville, where I was paroled. I then started for home, and when I got to Greensboro, N. C., I was taken sick with typhoid fever, and was left there. I was sick for about two months, and when I got well enough to travel I started for home, and when I got to Salisbury I was taken sick again, and was left there. I was sick for about two months, and when I got well enough to travel I started for home, and when I got to Statesville I was taken sick again, and was left there. I was sick for about two months, and when I got well enough to travel I started for home, and when I got to Mocksville I was taken sick again

Question Bur

A. The true name and question of
Q. We will be paid to mathematic
answer questions of [illegible]
queries regarding the reliability of
ads, terms or specialties.
Communications for this department must
questions on a separate sheet, directed to
Bureau, and must contain name and
these questions. Do not ask a question and
answer to appear in it. If we can answer it,
it is considered for general interest, it will be
answered. It is useless to request an answer by
next issue." The question bureau is always
and we are usually two or three weeks behind
4. This department is not intended to settle
disputes or decide bets. Replies to questions
forwarded to be of general interest, and no one
the right to DEMAND a reply. As all matter for
department passes through the hands of one
he is the best judge of what shall and what sh
not be answered. Do not request an answer
mail.
5. No question will receive the SLIGHTEST atte
ion unless the first and third rules above
STRICTLY complied with.

THE TRANSVAAL.

E. V. P., Bridgiver, W. T.:
Tell me something about the Transvaal,
sources, climate, people, etc.
The Transvaal State, also called by the Boe
the South African Republic, was originall
formed by part of the Boers, who left the Cap
Colony in 1835 for Natal, but quitted that Colo
on its annexation to the British Crown. Th
Vaal river bounds the territory on most of i
southern frontier, separating it from the Orang
Free State; in the southeast are Natal and Zulu
land. The limits of the state are not well d
fined. In 1852 the independence of the Transva
was recognized by the British government, a
the constitution of the state is based on th
"Thirty-three Articles," passed May 2d, 185
and the "Grondwet," or Fundamental Law
February 19, 1858. The constitution has sinc
been frequently amended down to October, 188
These laws vested the supreme power in the
Volksraad of 44 members, elected for four years
one half retiring every two years. The fra
chise qualification is residence of five years, th
oath of allegiance, and payment of £25. Accor
ing to the amended constitution the executive
is vested in a president, elected for five year
by all enfranchised burghers, assisted by
council consisting of two official members (th
state secretary and the vice president) and tw
non official members elected by the Volksraa
On April 12, 1877, the Transvaal was annexed b
the British government, and an administrat
with an executive council and legislative assem
bly appointed. In December, 1880, the Boe
took up arms against the British governmen
and as a result a treaty of peace was signe
March 21, 1881, and a commission appointed t
define the relations between Great Britain an
the Transvaal. According to the agreeme
thus made (ratified by the Volksraad, Octob
26, 1881,) self-government was restored to th
Transvaal so far as regards internal affairs, th
control and management of external affair
being reserved to Her Majesty as Suzerain.
British resident was appointed, with function
analogous to those of a consul-general and charg
d'affaires. A deputation from the Transva
came to England in 1883 to endeavor to obta
a restoration of complete independence on th
basis of the convention of 1852. The Transva
has no standing army, all able-bodied citize
being called out in case of war. The Dutch R
formed Church is the dominant religious bod
but various Christian churches are represente
There are schools in the large towns a
throughout the districts, at which English an
Dutch are taught, and for the scattered popul
tions there are itinerant teachers. The gover
ment gives assistance to the public schools, b
much is also done by private enterprise. Th
area of the Transvaal is estimated at 115,0
square miles, divided into 13 districts, and i
white population in 1881 at 40,000, of whom 3
000 are Dutch; the native population is es
mated at 774,980. These figures, however, ca
not be regarded as trustworthy. The chie
town of the country is Pretoria. The Transva
is specially favorable for agriculture as well a
stock-rearing, thou: its capacities in this re
spect are not yet developed. Wheat of a s
perior kind is the chief crop, though sugar
coffee and cotton are also grown; cattle, shee
and ostriches are reared. The country
possessed of considerable mineral wealth, whi
has not yet been worked to any extent. Gold
known to exist; excellent coal is found in th
east of the country, which is being worked to
small extent, while iron is also known
abound; lead, silver and tin have also been foun
The southern boundary of the Transvaal
about 200 miles from Durban, 430 from Po
Elizabeth, and 700 from Cape Town; while t
eastern boundary is not 40 miles from Delag
Bay, to which it was supposed to construct
railway some years ago, but it was found i
possible to raise sufficient funds. The Po
tuguese government has entered into an agre
ment (January 11, 1884,) with an American co
tractor to construct a line from Lourenzo Ma
ques to the Transvaal frontier, from which t
Transvaal government proposes to continue th
line to Pretoria, with a branch line to Impo
centres. Before the recent war the Transva
was joined to Natal by telegraph, but at pre
sent it only extends from Pretoria to Stander
ton, 120 miles; the country is (January, 188
being connected with the Orange Free State b
telegraph. Weights and measures are the sam
as in Cape Colony, and the currency is Englis
money only.

THE UNITED STATES—KING OF THEBES—XENOPHO

J. W. B., Harrisburg, Pa.:
1. If the United States corners on the Nort
Pole since the purchase of Alaska from Russi
what is its probable extent? 2. Please give a
account of Epaminondas, the Theban, I think a
altogether a finer King of Thebes. 3. Please give fu
an account as you have space of the retreat
the 10,000 Greeks, where their road where
retreated, their leaders, etc.
1. The whole area of the states and territorie
including water surface of lakes and rivers,
nearly equal to four million square miles. Th
whole population, including Alaska and India
territory, exceeds 50,500,000. 2. This Theba
general and statesman, son of Polymnis, wa
born and reared in poverty, though his bloo
was noble. He saved the life of Pelopidas i
battle, 385 B. C., and lived in close friendship
with him afterwards. After the Spartans ha
been expelled from Thebes, 379, Epaminonda
took an active part in public affairs. He gaine
a great victory over the Spartans at Leuctr
(371 B. C.), which destroyed the Spartan su
premacy in Greece. Four times he successively
invaded Peloponnesus at the head of the Theba
armies. In the last of these campaigns he
gained a brilliant victory over the Lacedemon
ians at Mantinea; but in the full career of vic
tory, died. He is said to have fallen by the
hands of Gryllus, the son of Xenophon. Epami
nondas was one of the greatest men of Greece.
He raised Thebes to the supremacy of Greece
which she lost almost as soon as he died. Both
in public and private life he was distinguished
by integrity and uprightness, and he carried int
daily practice the lessons of philosophy, of whic
he was an ardent student. 3. In 401 B. C. the
expedition of Cyrus the Younger to dethrone hi
brother, Artaxerxes, took place; the battle o
Cunaxa, in which Cyrus was slain, was fough
in the same year. Cyrus had employed Greek
mercenaries, and this brief war is especially
famed for the masterly retreat of the 10,00
Greeks under Xenophon, the Athenian. It was
after the treacherous massacre of Clearchus an
others of the Greek commanders by the Persia
satrap, Tissaphernes, that Xenophon came for
ward. He had held no command in the army o
Cyrus, nor had he, in fact, served as a soldier
He was now elected one of the generals, an
took the principal part in conducting the Greek
in their memorable retreat along the Tigris over
the high table lands of Armenia to Trapezu
(Trebizond), on the Black sea. From Trapezu
the troops were conducted to Chrysopolis, which
is opposite to Byzantium. The Greeks were i
great distress, and some of them under Xeno
phon entered the service of Seuthes, king o
Thrace. As the Lacedaemonians under Thim
bron were now at war with Tissaphernes and
Pharnabazus, Xenophon and his troops were in
vited to join the army of Thimbron, and Xeno
phon led them from Thrace out of Asia to join Thim
bron in 399. Socrates was put to death in 399,
and it seems probable that Xenophon was ban
ished from Athens either shortly before or
shortly after that event. In 396 he was with
Agesilaus, the Spartan king, who was command
ing the Lacedaemonian forces in Asia against
the Persians. When Agesilaus was recalled (394),
Xenophon accompanied him; and he was on the
side of the Lacedaemonians in the battle which
they fought at Coronea (394) against the Athen
ians. It seems that he went to Sparta with Age
silaus after the battle of Coronea, and soon after
he settled at Scillus in Elis, not far from Olym
pia, where he was joined by his wife, Philesia,
and his children. Xenophon was at last expelled
from his quiet retreat at Scillus by the Eleans
after remaining there about twenty years. The
sentence of banishment from Athens was re
pealed on the motion of Eubulus, but it is un
certain in what year. There is no evidence that
Xenophon ever returned to Athens. He is said
to have retired to Corinth after his expulsion
from Scillus, and, as we know nothing more, we
assume that he died there.

THE TARIFF.

V. F. C., Onaga, Kans.:
1. Please let me know all about the import
duty on books. 2. Also on dry goods.
1. The free list embraces books, engravings,
bound or unbound, etchings, maps, and charts,
which shall have been printed and manufac
tured more than twenty years at the date of im
portation. Books, maps, and charts imported
by authority or for the use of the Library of
Congress; but the duty shall not have been in
cluded in the contract or price paid. Books,
maps, and charts specially imported, not more
than two copies in any one invoice, in good
faith, for the use of any society incorporated or
established for philosophical, literary, or re
ligious purposes, or for the encouragement of
the fine arts, or for the use or by order of any
college, academy, school, or seminary of learn
ing in the United States. Books, professional,
of persons arriving in the United States, books,
household effects, or libraries, or parts of libra
ries, in use, of persons or families from foreign
countries, if used abroad by them not less than
one year, and not intended for any other person
or persons, nor for sale. The rate of duty on
other books and papers is as follows: Books,
pamphlets, bound or unbound, and all printed
matter, not specially enumerated or provided
for in the act, engravings, bound or unbound,
etchings, illustrated books, maps, and charts,
25 per centum ad valorem. Blank books,
bound or unbound, and blank books in part
copying, 25 per centum ad valorem. Paper,
sized or glazed, suitable only for printing paper,
20 per centum ad valorem. Printing paper, un
sized, used for books and newspapers exclusive
ly, 15 per centum ad valorem. Paper, manu
facturers of, or of which paper is a component
material, not specially enumerated or provided
for in the act, 15 per centum ad valorem.
Sheathing paper, 10 per centum ad valorem.
Paper boxes, and all other fancy boxes, 35 per
centum ad valorem. Paper envelopes, 25 per
centum ad valorem. Paper-hangings and paper
for screens or fire-boards, paper antiquarian,
demy, drawing, elephant, foolscap, imperial
letter, note, and all other paper not specially
enumerated or provided for in the act, 25 per
centum ad valorem. Paper, dried, for paper-
hangings, 10 per centum ad valorem. If it
would occupy too much space for this depart
ment to give all the items included in the
2d clause, the answer is probably about 45 cents
per pound, and in addition thereto about 35 per
cent ad valorem.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

J. S. F., Valley Mills, Tex.:
Please give some information in regard to the
Panama canal.
The following was clipped from an exchange
by a friend, and it will show you what the
Panama canal is and what it is doing. Have a map

Happiness

results from that true contentment which
indicates perfect health of body and mind.
You may possess it, if you will purify and
invigorate your blood with Ayer's Sarsa-
parilla. E. M. Howard, Newport, N. H.,
writes: "I suffered for years with Scrofu-
lous humors. After using two bottles of
Ayer's Sarsaparilla, I

Found

great relief. It has entirely restored me to
health." James French, Atchison, Kans.,
writes: "To all persons suffering from
Liver Complaint, I would strongly recom-
mend Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I was afflicted
with a disease of the liver for nearly two
years, when a friend advised me to take
this medicine. It gave prompt relief, and
has cured me." Mrs. H. M. Kidder, 41
Dwight st., Boston, Mass., writes: "For
several years I have used Ayer's Sarsa-
parilla in my family. I never feel safe,
even

At Home

without it. As a liver medicine and
general purifier of the blood, it has no
equal." Mrs. A. B. Allen, Winterpock,
Va., writes: "My youngest child, two
years of age, was taken with Bowel Com-
plaint, which we could not cure. We tried
many remedies, but he continued to grow
worse, and finally became so reduced in
flesh that we could only move him upon
a pillow. It was suggested by one of the
doctors that Scrofula might be the cause
of the trouble. We procured a bottle of

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A STRANGE FLOWER.

Its Pungent Petals Bear the Blood Stain of Baptism.

In the western part of Jefferson county, Florida, says the Live Oak correspondent of the Atlanta *Constitution*, there grows and blossoms into curious and magnificent beauty a rose that seems to be indigenous to a small area of country, but which will not flourish in other latitudes. The bush is a strong and vigorous one, and the leaves are a very light but glossy green. The petals of the flower curve slightly inward and are the color of bright, arterial blood.

The odor is pungent, but slightly sickening. The peculiarity of this flower is that the dew that drops therefrom is of a faint pinkish cast, a marvel seen in no other flower, the baffling wonder of those who have witnessed it. It is called the Grant rose, and has a sad and melancholy history. Its origin is one of those mysteries with which nature at times delights to astonish her devotees.

In 1834 John Grant and Nellie Lowry were married. After a happy year of married life they and their baby were murdered by Osceola's Seminoles. A few years later a passing hunter, one of the original parties that had found the bodies, happened on the same locality, and in the little hollow where the blood had gathered he saw a vigorous bush, bearing such roses as I have described. He cut some slips from it and took them to the settlement where he related his discovery.

Such a romantic and singular story excited the curiosity of many to the adjacent counties, and repeated efforts were made to secure the growth of the slips in other places, but they have all failed of success. Within an area of five miles, where the doleful tragedy occurred, it is said the rose can still be found, with its strong and sturdy stalk, its pale-green leaves, its incurved crimson petals, and its bloody dew.

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A Queer Lake.

"Sugar Lake, in this county," says the Crawford county (Pennsylvania) *Journal*, "is a beautiful little body of water, and is undergoing a continual chemical change that should attract the scientist. Eighty years ago the average depth of water in the lake was about 30 feet, but it is now only fifteen feet deep. The surface of the water stands at high water mark, but the bottom is filling up or rising. It is a most singular phenomenon that every year in the month of August the water of the lake becomes a milky substance, and, after a little change in the temperature, small white particles like cheese curd are formed and precipitated to the bottom, and are slowly but surely filling up the lake. After these particles are formed and settle the water becomes clear and pure. At the rate this chemical change is now going on, fifty years more and the water of Sugar Lake will have become solidified into a solid loaf of sugar, or what is more probable, formed into a great bed of limburger cheese. During the season of the year when the chemical process is in operation there is pungent evidence to sustain the latter theory."

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MR. MUELLER IN HOT WATER.

Hon. JACOB MUELLER, of Ohio, United States Consul General at Frankfort-on-the-Main, in his annual report to the State department, explains the recent marked evidences of the jealousy of the German government towards the United by saying the former dreads American hogs, wheat and other imports generally, but, still more, the importation of American ideas. He observes a tendency toward retrogression in the political, religious and economic spheres of life, the barriers between mankind being fostered and multiplied to such an extent that the spirit of caste is again becoming prominent and the feudal system resurrected.

Mr. MUELLER'S report has, according to ate reports, stirred up a hornet's nest bout his ears A diplomatic correspondence on the subject of his report is expected between the German government and the United States as a result of his extremely frank expression of his views, and a request for his recall is not among the improbabilities. MUELLER was a revolutionist in 1848, and hurried from Germany when SCHURZ and his comrades fled to save their necks. He is a radical believer in republican institutions and necessarily unpopular with Prince BISMARCK.

It is said that he would not have been received by the German government when appointed by Pres. CLEVELAND, but for the fact that, during the Franco-Prussian war he visited the Fatherland, and, though an ardent republican, his sympathies in that struggle were with his own people, and he rendered the German soldiers valuable service in the hospitals and elsewhere. On account of this the German government extended to him a pardon for his previous offenses against the government, so that when appointed consul general to represent the United States, there was no objection raised. But the fact of his being a German revolutionist has rendered him an object of suspicion, and the German government has pounced upon his report as a pretext for getting him out of the country. American ideas are popular with the masses of the Fatherland, if obnoxious to the aristocratic caste, and MUELLER is an apostle of republicanism feared and hated by the latter.

SENATOR LOGAN has introduced in the Senate a bill to equalize bounties. It provides that non-commissioned officers and privates honorably discharged shall receive $3.33⅓ a month for time actually served; that in case of death the payment shall be made to the widow or minor children; that in ascertaining the bounty all bounties paid under United States laws shall be deducted; that no bounty shall be paid to any soldier who served as a substitute or who was discharged on his own application for other cause than disability, unless such a discharge was obtained with a view to enlistment; that any attorney who shall receive from any claimant a sum greater than $10 for the prosecution of claims shall be liable to fine and imprisonment; and that a soldier shall not sell or assign his discharge paper or assign his bounty.

ALL through the Presidential campaign of 1884 Democratic stump speakers spent their breath and wasted much oratory in declaring that the departments at Washington were crowded with useless employes; that the public service was thus much too expensive; and when the Democratic administration came into power there was an ostentatious reduction of force in a few cases. The work, however, piled up so rapidly that the clerical force was speedily brought up to the old numbers—without any publicity being given to it, however, from Democratic sources. Now, all the departments are declared by Democratic officials to be in need of still more clerks, and heavier appropriations for all purposes.

A GREAT many people are watching the result of M. PASTEUR'S experiment with the Newark boys with a great deal of anxiety and interest. They are well and growing fat under the treatment, which will be over in a few days so that they can return home without fear of hydrophobia. Two rabbits are killed every day to furnish the virus for the inoculation of the boys, the animals having been previously inoculated, and the time calculated at which they will become mad and die from its effects. Should continued experiments prove M. PASTEUR to be right, the world owes him a debt of gratitude which it will be hard to pay.

THE Ohio Democratic legislature has, on the whole, quiet, with a tendency to let things drift until the opening of the coming year. In nearly all important lines the volume of trade has shrunken to some extent. There has been but little net shrinkage in values in produce staples. While in some lines slight differences have occurred in favor of holders or sellers, in other values have weakened. There are only three important articles in the entire category of agricultural products which are not selling lower than the average, and lower than the prices of the beginning of the year. Wheat is 10 to 12c. higher, in consequence of a deficiency of 165,000,000 bushels in the American crop; wool is 3 to 5c. higher, because of a short clip, and sugar is higher on the strength of a decreased yield in Europe, while the crop of the United States is larger and better in quality than that of last year. The cheaper agricultural commodities are corn, rye, oats, barley, cotton, tobacco, hogs, and hog products. The percentage of difference in prices, however, is but little more than equal to the increase of yield and supply, so that the purchasing resources of the farm population, which is the greater part of the whole, are apparently not materially different. In artisan industries and other vocations the gains are probably balanced by the losses The wealth of the country has increased, probably in an average ratio, and the tone which is now actuating the mainspring of trade and industry is so much better in many respects as to merit recognition as a valuable addition to business forces.

THE business failures have showed an increase for two or three weeks past, and there is likely to be an increase instead of a decrease during the month of January, the general "settling up" which is the rule at the beginning of the year having the effect of forcing the more shaky and unreliable firms to go into voluntary or enforced liquidation.

DURING the past week the iron markets have been firm, and a further advance of 50c. is reported in Pennsylvania forge irons, a like rise in ores, an advance in bars, a firmer tone in nails, and decided activity in structural irons, sales of 17,000 to 18,000 tons of the latter being reported at Philadelphia.

THE Washington *National Republican* has published a table showing the probable vote of the House of Representatives on the silver question. This shows that 148 Democrats and 52 Republicans in the House oppose the suspension of silver coinage, while 39 Democrats and 91 Republicans favor it. The West and South are represented as being practically a unit for silver coinage, while the Eastern and Middle states appear to be almost as solidly in favor of its suspension.

THE Civil Service reform question promises to be a lively topic of interest in the House this winter. A proposition has been made to form a new committee on Civil Service rules, with power to send for persons and papers and investigate the work of the Civil Service commission. There is fun ahead, but the enemies of the law will find themselves remembered when they come before the people for re-election next fall. Civil service reform has come to stay, and the spoilsmen might as well accept it as to enter on a struggle which will only end in their utter defeat.

MR. HITT, an Illinois member, has introduced a needed measure. It is a bill defining the legal jurisdiction of United States consuls, containing a full legal code for their guidance, and abolishing many of the absurdities and orudities of our present happy-go-lucky system. It passed the last Senate, being under PENDLETON'S charge; and now it is said to be earnestly advocated by Sec. BAYARD. It is likely that this useful measure will become a law.

LAND COMMISSIONER SPARKS declares that all the complaints that are being made in the West against his rulings "come from persons who are interested in land frauds and jobs." The honest settlers, who are in danger of losing the results of years of toil, if his arbitrary and despotic rulings, in defiance of justice and common sense, are allowed to stand, have an entirely different opinion of the matter, and one more in agreement with the truth.

THE Hendricks Monument association of Indianapolis adopted a resolution to ask no appropriation from Congress, but to depend alone upon voluntary subscriptions by an appreciative people.

MONDAY the French National Assembly, composed of 300 Senators and 557 members of the Chamber of Deputies, met in joint convention and elected a President of the French Republic. M. GREVY, who has occupied that position since 1879, was re-elected by a majority of 135. There was a good deal of excitement, but though no party was enthusiastic over the Monsieur, he was the least objectionable to the whole and was, therefore, chosen. His administration has been characterized by moderation and a wise firmness which has won the respect of the people, which he will, doubtless retain. Pres. GREVY is now over 70 years old, and having been in public life the greater part of the time since he reached his majority, he is well fitted for an intelligent discharge of his duties.

THE British Parliament will meet next Tuesday, January 19, and the prospects are for an exceedingly stormy session, to be followed by the most exciting election ever held in Great Britain, in which home-rule for Ireland will be the great issue. Late events show that neither SALISBURY or GLADSTONE will favor any measure that will satisfy the Irish Nationalists, and that their programme for the session will be simply to block legislation.

PRINCE ALEXANDER has won for himself an enviable reputation in the eyes of the world. His call upon his people to defend their country from Servian invasion was followed by an enthusiastic rush to arms by the men and unbounded self-sacrifices on the part of the women to furnish supplies. He has succeeded in securing an honorable peace, and has obtained the recognition of Europe for the union of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, which, though not yet consented to by the Turkish Porte will be in the end. The victorious Bulgarian army entered Sofia Saturday, when KAVAN received by the inhabitants with enthusiasm.

KOSSUTH, the Hungarian patriot, being no longer able to earn his living by teaching languages in Italy, has now found a home in the house of his friend, ORSI, who

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[illegible] will sustain all the Southern states within a very few years, and for good and sufficient reasons. Georgia has given the experiment a thorough test, and the results have been more than could have been expected. It has been made manifest in every county which has adopted Prohibition that crime has been lessened 80 per cent., that pauperism has almost disappeared, and that labor is as hundred-fold more steady and reliable.

All the evidences of prosperity are more than doubled. The deposits in savings banks are trebled, workingmen in the villages and cities are acquiring homes for themselves, and those who occupy property not their own are much more prompt in the payment of their rent than ever before. Women and children are better fed and clothed, and the day and Sunday schools are better attended. Counties that were noted for lawlessness and criminality are now peaceful and quiet, where before was squalor and wretchedness there is now plenty and thrift, in short the mental and moral tone of the state has been elevated wonderfully.

The fact is the whiskey and beer shops which disfigured the state and made murderers, criminals, beggars and paupers of the people, absorbing over a full half of their earnings and cutting down their capacity for earning over a half, have been wiped out, and the enormous sum they absorbed now goes to the decent support of workingmen and those dependent upon them.

Tennessee, Alabama, North and South Carolina are girding up their loins for a struggle with the monster, and as they have decided to adopt Georgia tactics they will succeed, even as Georgia has. They will attack one county after another till they have disarmed opposition by actual demonstration, and then move upon the state as a whole, as Georgia has done, by fixing Prohibition in the Constitution. They will keep it carefully out of politics, so that Democrats and Republicans can work together on this one issue, enabling them to combine all good people on this one point, and step by step, county by county, redeem the state.

The Prohibitionists of the South really want Prohibition, and they have gone about it the right way. They have had no use for professional agitators, whose bread and butter depends upon agitation, and who do not want the accomplishment of anything, because it would throw them out of business, but they have gone straight to the accomplishment of their purpose, in a practical, business-like way. They first secured Prohibition by law, and then they made sure that the law should be enforced, the same as any other law. It did not matter to what party an officer belonged, he was compelled to enforce the liquor law the same as he did laws against other crimes. The selling of liquor was made a crime, and the seller a criminal, and he was treated as a criminal. With such work it took no time at all to wipe out the business in Georgia, cleanly and effectually.

What Georgia has done the other southern states will do, for they must. Otherwise Georgia will receive the best of the vast population that is going south for homes, and that element of strength is what no southern state can afford to lose. Every decent Northern man going south for settlement will choose [illegible] which is the most free from whisky and its influences. Prohibition has given Georgia thousands upon thousands of the best families of the north, and the tide will be swelled as the machinery for the destruction of the whisky traffic gets into better working order. Tennessee and the Carolinas will not long be left in the rear. For their own protection, as well as as an inducement for Northern capital and labor, these states will most effectually

Pulverize the Rum Power.

THE dispatches from Paris last week announced that a peace had been concluded with the Queen of Madagascar by which a French protectorate was to be established over the island. Were that so, it would be simply the triumph of might over right, as the French were unjustifiable aggressors. Later reports, however, are to the effect that the treaty recognizes the sovereignty of the Queen over the entire island and contains no mention of a French protectorate, and no indemnity is to be paid to France, though European traders and residents are to be compensated for war losses. If this be true everybody outside of France will rejoice over such a termination of a wicked war.

A WELL-TO-DO farmer of South Windsor, Conn., imbibed the idea that he would die on December 15. He settled up all his earthly affairs, ordered his coffin, and had all things prepared for his funeral, confident that the corpse would be ready on the given date. The 15th came and passed, but he is still alive and in perfect health. We mention this to call attention to the fact that had he happened to die at the specified time, the case would have been trumpeted all over the land as a supernatural occurrence. As it is, the failures of such predictions should be remembered as well as their fulfillment.

JUDGE NOAH DAVIS asserts that ninety per cent. of the crime in the city of New York can be traced directly to the use of liquor. The Judge should go further. He should say that ninety-nine per cent. of the pauperism comes from the same source; that two-thirds of the taxation ditto, and that Rum is the chief cause of the corruption in governmental matters that New York staggers under. In short the Judge would be perfectly safe in ascribing a good 99 per cent. of human misery of all kinds to this one cause. He would not be at all out of the way.

WE ask once more that our subscribers whose time of expiration is near at hand, look at the label on this week's paper, and renew beforehand. It saves us a world of trouble, and considerable expense. Also, if you like the BLADE, secure us another subscriber, and result with your own renewal. Thousands are doing this; for which, thanks. There is no better paper printed than the BLADE, and to extend its circulation is to do good work.

THE Mississippi legislature will convene on January 8. It will choose two United States Senators, but the election excites no interest, as Mr. GEORGE, whose term expires, will be re-elected, and Mr. WALTHALL, who was appointed to succeed LAMAR by the governor, until the legislature [illegible]

[illegible] Kentucky, in his annual speech in the Senate. He introduced a resolution reciting that the United States have require that all customs duties paid in coin; then giving in full the sections relating to the sinking fund for the payment of the national debt and interest thereon; and finally closing with a resolution instructing the committee on Finance to inquire whether these laws have been obeyed, and if not to report what measures are necessary for their enforcement. These resolutions were made the text for a speech severely arraigning the administration for failing to carry out the law.

Now, it is a fact, as the readers of the BLADE are well aware, that Sec. MANNING so far has paid no attention to the provisions of the sinking fund act; that there has been no bond call since the present Democratic administration went into power; that the policy of the years of Republican administration, of paying the debt as rapidly as possible, in order that the interest burden should be reduced, has been entirely reversed, and that the financial policy of Mr. MANNING, so far, has been one of utter subserviency to the money power—that he has been the mere creature of the New York financial magnates.

Mr. BECK is a Democrat, and he opens fire directly upon the Democratic administration for its violation of law and its erroneous financial policy. A portion of his speech is devoted to the silver discussion—he being opposed to the stoppage of the compulsory coinage of standard dollars, and in fact a silver inflationist. But all the argument on this question was but a preliminary to his furious attack on the administration. And that Mr. BECK was deeply in earnest may be seen from his strength of denunciation. Sen. MORRILL, in commenting on the floor of the Senate upon Mr. BECK'S speech expressed his regret that

the Senator from Kentucky should represent the secretary of the Treasury as being little better than a common thief and allege that the secretary and the President of the United States together have been bought up by the bondholders.

While we do not agree with Mr. BECK in his silver views, we admire his independence, in boldly attacking his own party's administration of the finances, when that administration is against the best interests of the people and in contravention of law. This speech will rally an immense following of Southern and Western Democrats against MANNING and CLEVELAND, and opens a regular Kilkenny fight within the Bourbon camp. And a point worth noting is that not a Democratic Senator stepped forward to aid the administration on the floor of the Senate; not one came to the front as the champion of its policy. As the *National Republican* remarked editorially,

The country is ignorant of the name of the Democratic Senator who is prepared to be the administration's anti-silver leader in the Senate.

The Republicans have nothing to do with this quarrel. It should be their policy to sustain all efforts to continue a sound and safe financial policy, and to continue the payment of the bonded debt as rapidly as may be. There is no reason why the Republican Congressmen should array themselves under either banner. If Senator BECK thinks he can win distinction by opening a warfare upon CLEVELAND, let him look to the Democrats for aid; and Mr. CLEVELAND has done nothing which should lead them to take up cudgels in his behalf. Let the fun go on.

THE SINKING FUND.

The New York *Sun* is belaboring Sec. MANNING for his failure to comply with the requirements of the national sinking fund act. This fund was established for the purpose of paying the national debt, by act of Congress approved February 25, 1862. That portion of the law which Mr. MANNING takes upon himself to disregard is as follows:

All duties on imported goods shall be paid in coin, or in notes payable on demand heretofore authorized to be issued and by law receivable in payment of public dues, and the coin so paid shall be set apart as a special fund, and shall be applied as follows:

First—To the payment in coin of the interest on the bonds and notes of the United States;

Second—To the purchase or payment of 1 per centam of the entire debt of the United States to be made within each fiscal year after the first day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, which is to be set apart as a sinking fund, and the interest of which shall in like manner be applied to the purchase or payment of the public debt as the secretary of the Treasury shall from time to time direct.

Third—The residue thereof to be paid into the treasury of the United States.

For the current fiscal year, which began on July 1 last—just six months ago—the amount required for the fund is about $45,000,000. The one per cent. of the principal of the public debt is, in round numbers, $17,000,000, the remaining 28 millions being required for interest. The $17,000,000 may be paid any time within the fiscal year ending June 30 next, while the $28,000,000 interest is to be paid as the secretary of the Treasury from time to time shall direct. Half the fiscal year is gone, and Mr. MANNING has done nothing in the matter. There is no lack of coin wherewith to carry out the provisions of the law. There is, in round numbers, $51,000,000 in gold and $76,000,000 in silver in the treasury. The *Sun* says:

The secretary refuses to pay out the silver, because he is hostile to extending the circulation of that kind of coin, and he is afraid to pay out gold, because that would leave him only silver and greenbacks to use for other payments.

As the *Sun* is a thoroughly Democratic authority, we feel justified, in view of the undoubted facts set out above, in saying that it looks very much as if the Democratic financial administration is in extremely poor hands. Not a dollar of the national debt has been paid in the ten months since the Democrats came into power; not a bond has been called; no step has been taken to reduce the interest burden by reducing the interest-bearing debt.

TO THOSE NOT TAKING THE BLADE.

Persons receiving this issue of the BLADE, who are not subscribers, will understand that it is sent them at request of some friend who furnished their names, and that the object is to have them examine it, with a view of ordering their subscription. We ask all such to give the BLADE a critical examination, and see if anywhere they can get so much for a dollar. If the paper pleases, subscribe for it.

The Island of Sardinia, which rises out of the sea to a height of from 60 to 100 feet, and served as a valuable [illegible] for sailors, warning them of a [illegible] that rocky coast, is [illegible]

"The Disclosures of [illegible]

We shall commence in January, 1885, a [illegible] which will continue three months.

It will be the most [illegible] series of articles ever [illegible] most helpful to the temperance [illegible]

It is the confessions of a man [illegible] used liquor first moderately, then moderately for forty years, [illegible] (it is an autobiography) going [illegible] and narrating the progress of the [illegible] from the beginning to end.

It is an absolute record of an actual [illegible] a cold statement of fact, which [illegible] ever, enough of interest in it to make [illegible] like a novel.

Every friend of Temperance and [illegible] hater of Rum should assist in giving [illegible] remarkable production a wide circulation. Especially, we want it placed in the hands of every young man who is contemplating a trifle with the poison, and also of those addicted to its use. How to prevent [illegible] shown to the one, and how to cure the other.

☞ We will send special short-time [illegible] to those who are willing to raise the [illegible] months short-time clubs, to continue during this publication of this help to the cause.

A NEW MENACE.

A movement is announced in New York that is but the forerunner of the beginning of a heavy export of gold to Europe. Timid capitalists and investors, who fear that Congress will not take steps to stop the standard dollar coinage, are purchasing long bills of exchange on London. These are payable in gold, and bear a low rate of interest. This demand for London exchange has caused an advance in sterling bills, and an advance of one half a cent more per £1 will make it profitable to export gold; and should this occur, as it seems probable it will, heavy shipments of gold to Europe will follow at once. This would at once exert an unfavorable influence upon our monetary system, and the next step would be for gold to jump to a premium. It would then at once curtail the circulation by the total amount of gold coin and certificates, which would become articles of merchandise, measured in the silver dollar, which is now intrinsically worth a small fraction under 79 cents.

The effect on business and industry would be paralyzing. The dollar would then have the purchasing power of 79 cents at present. That is, the price of everything we eat, drink or wear—of every article of merchandise, in fact—would at once increase 21 per cent. But how about the wages and salaries of the vast army of men who live by daily toil? It is a fact known to them all by bitter experience, that the rate of wages is the first thing to fall, the last to rise. And labor is like wheat or other merchandise—the more abundant it is, the cheaper it is. The labor market is overstocked. For every three men who to-day have steady work there are at least two who have either only partial employment, or are entirely idle. Would there be any hope of a sudden rise of 21 per cent. in the rate of wages in the face of this enormous total of men seeking work? There would be, slowly and uncertainly, a slight rise in the rate, and this would come first to the men employed in industries which are most prosperous. But it would take time for even this partial rise, and meanwhile the laboring man would be paid in a dollar which had but 79 cents' purchasing power, while everything he needed would be 21 per cent. higher than now. Congress should move in the matter, and that quickly.

UNCLE SAM'S MINES.

THERE are but few people comparatively who have any accurate knowledge of the mineral resources of the United States. The government has recently issued a document on this subject, prepared by the chief of the division of mining statistics and technology of the geological survey, which brings the statistics down to the end of the year 1884. Our most valuable mineral is coal, and that year the output of all our coal mines was 106,986,395 tons, worth $143,768,578; pig iron was produced to the amount of 4,097,868 tons, valued at $73,761,634, and this not withstanding the year was one of great depression in the industry. Our silver product amounted to $48,800,000; gold to $30,800,000; crude petroleum to $30,476,294; copper to $13,780,697; lead to $10,537,613, and artificial mineral fertilizers to $37,640,000.

In no one of these minerals or metals, with, perhaps, the exception of gold, nor in any others not mentioned above, the annual product of which already reaches into the millions, is there indications that we have reached as yet the limit of our annual product. In coal and iron Pennsylvania still heads the list of the states, the great coal beds of the South being, as yet, virtually untouched. The manufacture of iron in the South is as yet only fairly started, and the growth of this class of manufactures there is destined to have a great influence on her industrial development.

The mineral resources of the Rocky and Sierra Nevada ranges have hardly been explored, except as to gold and silver. All these things show that this country should not follow the free trade idea that we are to be a solely agricultural people, to furnish raw material to the mills and factories of Great Britain. We have opportunities for the most diversified industries, and what we need is to continue the policy of developing them to the utmost extent. Great as our industries have developed in the past quarter of a century, we have hardly made a beginning as regards the possibilities nature has placed within our grasp.

BROOKLYN has had a terrible [illegible] typhoid fever, which was spreading [illegible] idly, and the result has been an [illegible] tion of suspected premises, [illegible] covery of at least 600 hopeless [illegible] the plumbing was defective [illegible] repairs were ordered. [illegible] of Toledo need fear such [illegible] over, not only with [illegible] plumbing of houses, [illegible] On some of the [illegible]

[illegible] names of your friends [illegible] the BLADE. Send them [illegible] re they are. The BLADE [illegible] every state in the Union, [illegible] Texas is just as good as [illegible] sas or Ohio.

[illegible] the English Liberals accept- [illegible] GLADSTONE'S idea of Irish Home [illegible] ure would, it seems, still have [illegible] able on the question of the veto [illegible] Mr. GLADSTONE would not con- [illegible] the formation of an Irish Parliament with the reserved right of the [illegible] Parliament to veto hostile or distorted legislation, and to decide in the last [illegible] whether justification had been ex- [illegible] ed. The Irish members could not [illegible] accept a parliament that would not have practical independence. Under such a restriction it would be simply a national debating society without influence among the Irish people. This question of legislative independence is likely to prove a most [illegible] one in all future controversy between [illegible] and Ireland.

[illegible] Toledo [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

...GOVERNMENT TO ENTER THE TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

The scheme for a governmental telegraph system will be pushed strongly this winter in Congress. Sen. OGLESBY, of Illinois, has introduced a measure for this purpose, which contains a provision for the purchase of existing lines, if deemed advisable; but it is stipulated that no line may be bought unless its earnings, for one year previous to the passage of the bill, have been enough to pay all "expenses of maintenance, construction and operation." This bars the rapid construction of "wild-cat" lines, for the express purpose of making a sale to the government. Before any line is purchased the commission is directed to ascertain its actual value, which is to be computed on the basis of $1,000 for every $50 net annual earnings, and it is provided that no line shall be purchased at a higher valuation than that ascertained upon the basis thus prescribed. To pay for any lines that are acquired it is proposed that thirty-year 3 per cent. bonds shall be issued, which shall not be disposed of at less than par.

The remainder of the scheme contemplated by this bill follows the general lines of the bill previously introduced by Sen. EDMUNDS. The secretaries of State and War, and the Postmaster General, are constituted a "Postal Telegraph Commission," having general charge of the purchase of old lines and the construction, equipment, etc., of new ones. It is proposed to have four great lines radiating from Washington as a center, running to the north and northeast, south, west and southwest, and the general details are similar to those governing the English system of postal telegraph.

We are not at all certain that the plan of government telegraph is a wise one. In the first place, the scheme, if it is to be run as an ordinary business is, will confine the convenience of telegraphic communication to the cities and towns which furnish enough business to make the lines pay. This is already done by the present telegraphic companies. As soon as the government lines get to work, a cry will go up from the small villages in every portion of the country that the government should give all the people equal facilities, and there will be a constant agitation for the extension of lines to points which will never pay the salary of even a "plug" operator. Then we think that the plan of having the government go into the business of telegraphy is open to the same objections that are brought against governmental railroads, or any scheme to have the United States go into regular business of any kind. It creates another class of public offices for politicians to quarrel over, it changes the purpose of the government from that of a controller to an owner and competitor with its own citizens for public business. The true theory, it seems to us, is for the government to exercise its undoubted right and establish such control over all corporations, telegraphic or otherwise, as shall prevent the people from being discriminated against in any manner. When it goes beyond this, it gets clearly outside of its own field of duty.

SYSTEM OF BOYCOTTING.

According to the last number of *Bradstreet's* the system of boycotting, as established and carried on by the laboring class of people, has reached such a position of strength and arbitrary authority as to place it among the powerful social and commercial agencies that call for attention from the public. It has long since passed that point where it was simply refraining from patronizing a boycotted concern. It reaches out and becomes a compulsory order upon the public to side with the boycotters.

Bradstreet gives for example the "boycott" of the New York *Tribune*, which was extended to a number of large firms that advertised in that paper. It really amounted to this: The boycotters said "We have a quarrel with the *Tribune*. If you do not take sides with us, we will injure your business all we possibly can." This sort of thing is tyranny, pure and simple. It is a determination to carry a point without regard to the rights of others.

Bradstreet's statistics show that since the practice was introduced in this country, 237 boycotts have been ordered in various places, of which 99 have been successful, 24 have failed and 114 are still on and may be ranked as doubtful.

Discussing this matter the *Nation* says:

No exceptions can be taken to the lawful endeavors of workingmen to improve their condition. On the contrary, they are to be encouraged in every way. Combinations to advance wages and shorten hours are all right. This is a free country and a free age of the world. Let every man do the best for himself, whether single-handed or in combination with others. Boycotting is a combination of the employed on the one side against employers and the unemployed on the other. The employer has a difference with his workmen—no matter what it is about, whether wages, hours, regulations, or personal pique. They are a mean willing to work on his terms; so he hooks on them. The union orders a strike, the new men are taken on, the union orders a boycott, and straightway issues orders to A, B, C, and the whole alphabet from Maine to California not to buy the goods of the boycottee. If anybody buys them after due notice, he is boycotted also, and the whole alphabet is notified of the second boycott and held responsible for its enforcement.

Of course such a system of meddlesome tyranny must come to an end, but it will not stop of its own accord. The combination of the employed against the employer and the unemployed must be met sooner or later by a counter combination. So long as the trades unions restricted themselves to fair dealing, or to boycotting according to the several meanings and original definition of the term, there was no call for any counter-combination; but when it takes the attitude and spirit of a Malay running amuck through an innocent crowd, society must protect itself at any cost.

THE temperance men and women of Grant City, Mo., made war on the drug stores which sold liquor, and the result is shown in the following from a paper of that town:

The war against the illegal sale of all intoxicants in our city is moving along with good results. Ten days of earnest work has resulted in nine fines assessed against two drug firms and the surrender of the third, who turned over his liquors to the W. C. T. U., who had it publicly destroyed. There was a mass meeting of our citizens in the M. E. church on Wednesday night, and short and stirring addresses were made by quite a number of persons. Read elsewhere the preamble and resolutions that were passed by a rising vote of a full house without a dissenting vote or voice. About nine-tenths of the men, women and children are in hearty sympathy with the present work of suppressing the illegal sale of the intoxicating beverage traffic in our beautiful city and throughout our county. At the close of the meeting on Wednesday night 101 persons signed the temperance pledge, indicating that the people of Grant City mean business on the temperance line.

THE Ottawa athletes have sent a check to Sec. RANSOM for $200 as a contribution to the Garner testimonial in New York. An opportunity...

Cincinnati Blade.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The BLADE does not pay for voluntary communications of any kind, but prints whatever it may see fit to, and will be responsible only for what is printed for that purpose. We will not be responsible for any debt so...

SILVER AND GOLD.

Shall the Ancient Fair Remain Married, or by Calumny Divorced?

BY F. J. SCOTT.

Accepting your kind offer of an open column for the discussion of what I consider the evils of the present agitation to destroy the value of silver money, I beg leave to begin with two propositions.

1. That either metal has nine-tenths or more of its value conferred by its use for coin; that to restrict or take away that use by laws favoring or preferring either, will at once lower the value of the metal against which the law leans, and increase the value of the metal favored.

It is so well known that silver was practically on a par with gold until about 1876, that I will not need to prove this point. The fall began when Germany, after having made gold instead of silver the unit of value, began to sell her silver in considerable quantities. Though the demonetization was practically set on foot by law in that empire some years earlier, it was not until 1875 to 1877 that its effects were much felt. The latter year it commenced dropping. Germany was obliged to abstain from further sales to prevent the price from dropping rapidly.

The United States government in 1873 indicated itself to be under the control of those who wished to demonetize silver by changing its unit of value from silver to gold. The effect of this act also was not immediately seen or felt. But by 1877 the logical sequence began to be appreciated, and in connection with Germany's action, affected the price of silver still more. Congress attempted to stay the current by re-adopting and coining on a large scale the standard silver dollar. But it had just taken a fatal step in favoring gold by promising to pay its new bonds, principal and interest, in gold, and this action more than counteracted the partial reinstatement of silver. It discriminated against one of its own coins in favor of the other. It provided a large silver currency for one class of people and promised gold alone to another. This vacillating, this suicidal policy, together with the ominous threats from Europe, has continued to undermine the value of silver. I claim, therefore, that since the exceptional production of silver from the Comstock and Leadville mines ceased, legislation, and legislation alone, has destroyed the value of silver to the extent of *one-half* the discount it is now quoted from gold. The other half of that difference is the rise in the value of gold caused by the destruction of so much of the value of silver. *What the one loses the other will gain; for the values of all commodities on the globe, when they are selling, are measured by the whole volume of both.*

2. That to attempt to restrict the coin unit of value to one metal—either one—is to inaugurate a revolution in the values of all commodities the world over.

The project is revolutionary in the worst sense of the word; for it is a revolution that would increase the value of the metal kept in use as the standard of value. It would make the rich richer, and the poor poorer. This is no cheap demagogical talk, but a proposition easily shown to be true. Look at these figures. Capitalists hold the obligations of the nations of the world, as given by the statistics of 1880, —mostly long bonds, and mostly payable in gold—as follows:

United States	$ 2,120 millions
France	3,580 "
Great Britain	3,767 "
Russia	3,319 "
Spain	2,579 "
Italy	2,541 "
Austria	1,881 "
Turkey	1,876 "
Portugal	457 "
Australia	443 "
Holland and Netherlands	691 "
Other European nations	406 "
Tot. of Nations of Europe and U. S.	$23,411,000,000

Add to this enormous total the long bond debts of the nations of Asia, North and South America; add again the long bonds of states, counties, and cities all over the world; add the vast volume of railway company and construction bonds, real estate improvement mortgages—the grand total will not be far from $100,000,000,000. The mind is staggered at the enormous additions. Now if this debt were all payable equally owing to all the people of all these countries it would be quite immaterial if it were much or little. In France alone is the debt so distributed. Elsewhere how is it? Who owns most of these long time bonds? Who does not know that that enormous total is largely in the hands of people or corporations of enormous wealth; and that the remainder is mostly in the hands of people of acquired competence? It presents to the mind a colossal power wielded by a very small minority of the people in each country. They, of course, desire to have their bonds increase in value. The road is open. Destroy one-half the coin basis—put silver out of the bond—and the profit will be accomplished. The few will have great increase, as they did in buying bonds during and at the close of the war, and the masses of the nations will have a double debt to carry. If gold alone is to be the standard coin, then any rise there may be in gold by the disuse of silver in payment of those bonds will go to the small fraction of very wealthy people and corporations who hold the bonds, and the loss will be to the people, who must be taxed in one form or another to pay them. If this is not a scheme to make the rich richer and the poor poorer, I cannot imagine one. But, reply the gold-bugs, if the dollar in the hands of the wealthy is increased in value so that the laborer is paid less nominally for his work, and the farmer less for his produce, and all values be on the decline nominally, still the gold dollar, when it is divorced from silver and rules alone, will bring just as much more, and the cents per day to the laborer will buy as much as one dollar of present money, based jointly on gold and silver. Yes—*after you have bridged forty years of ruin, during which the transition might take place.* Ruin those who owe, paralyze industry, put the brakes down on the wheels of enterprise for a cycle of years, ignore present rights and possess prosperity to increase the profits on the gold dealt for the bond holders—and after 40 years *perhaps* all will be well! Are the American people's heads ready for the lion's mouth?

Democracy Analyzed.

To the Editor of the Toledo Blade:

The party that hurrahed for Jefferson Davis; the party that rejoiced at the assassination of Abraham Lincoln; the party that fought for slavery; the party that tried to destroy the Union by secession; the party that declared that the war was a failure and a burden of useless taxation to the North; the party that does not believe in a free ballot, and that elects its officers by fraud and shotguns; the party that turns Union soldiers out of office and puts criminals and rebels in their places; the party that trampled the stars and stripes under their feet; the party that would ruin the country by a free trade system; the party that transgressed the law of the constitution and broke the oath of allegiance; the party that refused to reduce the national debt; the party that despised and hated U. S. Grant, the great commander-in-chief of United States armies; the party that called Union soldiers black legs, Lincoln's hirelings, black abolitionists, etc.; the party that made outlaws of the northern men that tried to murder the North; the party that held negro ranches, and sold negroes off like cattle; the party that elected a sympathizer of the lost cause to office instead of J. A. Logan, a federal christian; the party that terrorized the loyal citizens of the South by organizations called Ku-Klux, who murdered the inhabitants after dark, and been punished; the party that rejoiced at every victory that was gained by the Confederate army; the party that preserved at the defeat of the Confederate forces; the party that filled the country with thousands of widows, orphans and cripples; the party that shot Union prisoners from the verandahs of Andersonville prison, and the party ordered to drink their filth and crawl around the dead line for a drink of pure water; the party that was the author of the Mowry lottery; the party that defiled the tombstones of the heroes of the fair for the purpose of carrying their republican point; the party that will run the government tottering to ruin, and stain the United States escutcheon with the foul blot of rebellion; the party that invented a new system of voting by which they can vote as many times as they please, and by which they can change the votes of the dead; the party that is always opposed to voting by ballot; the party that is always opposed to counting the votes honestly; the party that is always opposed to the will of the people; the party that is always opposed to the laws of the land; the party that is always opposed to the constitution of the United States; the party that is always opposed to the rights of the people; the party that is always opposed to the liberties of the people; the party that is always opposed to the prosperity of the people; the party that is always opposed to the happiness of the people; the party that is always opposed to the welfare of the people; the party that is always opposed to the peace of the people; the party that is always opposed to the safety of the people; the party that is always opposed to the security of the people; the party that is always opposed to the protection of the people

The Household.

MISS EMILY S. BOUTON, EDITOR.

CORRESPONDENTS writing for this department will please observe the following rules:

1. Write "Household Department" on the envelope.

2. Give real name and Postoffice address—not for publication, unless you wish—but for reference in case it is necessary to address you by mail.

3. Write only on one side of the paper. Write PLAINLY. DO NOT interline. Write BRIEFLY.

NEW YEAR'S GREETING.

To-morrow ushers in the New Year—eighteen hundred and eighty six. It seems but yesterday since we entered upon the one which is dying to-night, and to those of us who live to see the dawning of eighteen hundred and eighty seven, the days that now stretch out, an unknown vista before us, will seem to have passed almost like the lightning's flash.

To each and every one who thinks at all, the New Year brings a variety of emotions: Serious thoughts as to whether it will be lived better than the last; wondering what it has in store for good and ill; questioning as to our fitness to bear its inevitable burdens, and whether we are ready, should our names be called from the shining shore of the beyond, to pass to its sweet restfulness without fear.

It is the time to make good resolves, even should they not be kept. It turns the thoughts in the right direction and that is something towards winning strength to fight the good fight against evil propensities. There are a few things which we know that a little care will enable us to do:

We can have faith in the good which is in the hearts of our friends and neighbors.

We can look with a loving charity upon the faults of others, knowing that they have their counterparts in ourselves.

We can speak ill of no one.

We can do all that is in our power to smooth the paths of the stricken, whether sorrow and shame come through their own fault, or by that of others.

If we keep to these rules of conduct we shall not go far astray.

May the coming year be full of blessings, for each and every one of the HOUSEHOLD band is the hearty wish of the

EDITOR.

HOME TALKS.

WHAT TO DO WITH THE TIME.

The long winter evenings are here, and with them have come to many parts of the country the rain, the snow, the sleet, the blowing winds, that seem to bear a threat of destroying tempests, the Arctic cold that congeals everything it touches and all the other accompaniments of the season which lecks up the glories of the vegetable world from so large a part of our people.

In the summer, when all the beauties of Nature are challenging attention, and when, too, the physical system is not keyed up to effort, mental labor is difficult. The days stretch so far into the nights that the hours of rest and recreation are necessarily short ened, or they seem to be. When the regular duties of the day are over, it is hard to sit down and apply oneself to anything that requires thought to make it worth retaining. It is this difficulty which is recognized by the production of what is called summer reading, pleasant romances or stories of wanderings, things that amuse without exaction of any kind from mind and body.

The infusion of frost into the air brings about a different condition of things. There is a rebound from summer lassitude, and to most of people comes the desire to do some thing. With many it is

Too often answered by a mad plunge into social pleasures, and through all the long winter months they fly from one scene of gaiety to another without ceasing.

That this is not a satisfactory way of spending the time goes without saying It may do for those who have a canker sore in their daily life whose gnawing they are trying to forget. The young who have not yet brushed off all the brightness and bloom from the flowers of social success may still find in it further delights to experience People, too, who have no resources within themselves, who are miserable if left to spend a quiet evening at home, who care nothing for the world of books, art and music, may feel a pleasurable excitement in the continued rush and whirl that monopolize the waking hours of society's devotees, but outside of these classes are many who long to make the most of life, who feel that there is something beneath this surface froth that is worth obtaining, and to such the long winter evenings around the home fireside are mines of wealth that will make wonderful returns for their working.

Do not understand me to decry the social amenities of life. Far from it. They are what bring people together, give them a vital interest in each other, lay the foundation for enduring friendship, besides affording the recreation which weary brain and body workers need. It is of the excess of so-called pleasure, the using up of all the energies, as well as the hours in its pursuit that I deplore. How to use these evenings to the best advantage for self-improvement is an important question, and there is nothing better than a systematic course of reading. Desultory effort is of little avail. It must be persistent and in one direction. You must make a regular business of what is to be a pleasure, in order to have that pleasure profitable.

If you are the mother of a family or a member of a household which will enter into the spirit of your purpose, so much the better. The first thing is to find out just what will best meet the wants and wishes of the majority. Should the matter be left to you then, you may follow out your own taste and desire.

Let us suppose, then, that you have a fancy for Natural History, that all through the Summer you have been particularly interested in watching the movements of the birds which have made music around your home. The first thing is to get the names of the best authors upon the subject of the habits of birds, those peculiar to certain localities, and everything in connection with them. Should there be a good public library where you live, this will prove an easy matter. If not your task is more difficult. If you are able to buy some books, go to the book store and ask there to see whatever is good in that direction. If the merchant understands his business he can aid you materially by his intelligent advice, and if he has not what you want in stock he can send and get it.

Some of you, however, may not be able to buy books and do not live near a public library. Well, you need not be discouraged. You can become a member of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, and in that way get what you want for a mere song, and receive a great deal of help in what you are going to do besides. Write to Miss K. F. Kimball, Plainfield, New Jersey, asking her for full particulars about what is necessary for you, and she will send you ample information. There is an annual fee of 50 cents required from each member, but that is a small thing compared to the good to be gained.

In fact it is a good thing to belong to this Circle in any case, as the suggestions and help received through the correspondence are worth a good deal. However, that is not a necessary thing. You can use these evenings very profitably without a guide.

It is not possible to know in the begin ning how much of interest will grow in a subject that is taken up with a determination to follow out carefully. You will find that each one of your circle will look forward to the hours spent in this way with the greatest pleasure.

It is better not to read too long at any one time. An hour at most is enough, and during the reading notes should be taken by the listeners to be compared before beginning the next time. This is a very important matter. You will be astonished to find what a help it will be in arranging facts in your memory. It brings out new ideas too, for no two persons will receive exactly the same impression, or carry out the same train of thought. After finishing the reading a half hour spent in talking about the subject will help too, and this exchange of ideas at the beginning and ending will give life to the whole work.

Perhaps you will find it necessary to limit your readings to certain evenings in the week, leaving some free for other purposes. Should you do so be sure to select those times that will be most likely to be free from interruptions. Irregularity in such an undertaking is very apt to kill the interest.

I spoke of a department of Natural History simply because it chanced to occur to me. The same general order of proceeding will apply to any other subject. You need a good dictionary and atlas for reference, and if you can command an encyclopedia, you are so much the better off. You should never pass a word over without understanding its meaning, nor omit finding the geographical position of a place mentioned. It makes everything clearer, and the habit is a most excellent one to form.

I have spoken particularly of a plan for home reading, but the same rules apply to small reading circles, which are becoming so general, and are really, if steadily kept up, so helpful. The great danger in such things is in getting them too large. To obtain the best results, they should not include more than six or eight at most. I am not speaking now of classes with an acknowledged head, but of circles where each takes her turn in reading, and all are, apparently at least, upon an equality.

With a definite plan such as I have described, the passing of the winter will bring to you a surprising growth in culture. It will bind the members of your family closer together. You will feel when the spring comes, that you have lived to a double purpose: You have accomplished the duties which were yours to do, and you have taken a stride forward, the advantages of which, are much farther reaching than you now realize. The summer will be far more to you, for you have multiplied your powers of enjoyment. Try it and see if it is not so.

EMILY S. BOUTON.

Fancy Work and House Decoration.

Scarf for Draping.—Pretty, bright colored drapings are used for chairs, easels, to throw over the ends of picture frames, in all sorts of places where they will produce a picturesque effect. An inexpensive one can be made out of Madras cloth. Cut a piece of the size desired out of some pretty pattern. Get some balls of tinsel of colors to suit the colors of the leaves and flowers, and then outline the entire design with it. If preferred, only one color of the tinsel need be used. Trim the ends with lace which has been outlined with bright silks. A finish of a strip of plain velvet across the ends between the Madras cloth and lace adds much to the beauty.

Splashers.—Get a piece of cream colored crash three-quarters of a yard long and a half yard wide. Fringe the ends, leaving the selvedge on the sides for a finish. Draw threads on the top side about an inch and a half from the edge for narrow drawn work. Now draw lines by a ruler diagonally across from side to side of drawn work about two inches apart, then draw them the other way so as to leave diamond spaces. Where the lines intersect draw overlapping circles, or leaves, or any small pattern. Even the straight lines in one color, any thing you choose. Put the figures in other colors. The result is a very pretty lattice work design, and a tasteful article.

A good many pretty articles for home adornment are to be found in "Fancy Work and House Decoration." Send 25 cents to Miss Emily S. Bouton, Toledo, O., and get one.

FABRIC PAINTING IN OILS—NO. VI.

Rose, Leaves and Buds. Butterfly.—The size of this design is 9x13 inches, No. 1295; it may be painted on satin for wall banner, or on French felt or velvet for end of table scarf. The colors needed will be chrome green No. 3, flake white, terre verte, pink madder, lemon yellow, ivory black and burnt sienna; also pale drying oil, and brushes according to the fabric on which you wish to paint.

After the design is stamped on the fabric and attached to the painting board, paint it in pure white as described for other designs. When this is dry, apply the natural colors. Paint the rose with pure pink madder, heightening the shade with an occasional touch of rose madder if you have it. Paint the leaves with an equal mixture of chrome green, terre verte, and a little lemon yellow added. Make them a little lighter on one side by adding a touch of the flake white.

Paint the stems and calyxes of the buds, and the calyx of the rose with the chrome green No. 3, to which a touch of the lemon yellow has been added. When this is dry, retouch here and there with burnt sienna. Paint the half open buds with the pure pink madder, making a little darker right at the point with rose madder. Paint the butterfly with pure lemon yellow, adding a touch of white on the wings.

When this is dry spot it with ivory black, holding your brush almost perpendicular. When these spots are dry, take a brush with a very fine point and draw a fine line (using burnt sienna) around each black spot. This will throw them up in relief. If preferred, the butterfly may be painted with orange chrome and spotted with black; or with brown madder, shaded with carmine, and then spotted with lemon yellow.

Japanese Fan.—This design is 6x9¼ inches in size, and is well adapted to decorating the square of a fancy quilt or cushion. It may be painted in outline, if it is stamped on a bright colored satin or velvet.

One small and one medium sized brush will be required, a little pale drying oil and the following paints: Chrome green No. 1, lemon yellow, ivory black, burnt sienna and transparent gold ochre.

After the pattern is stamped on the fabric and it is stretched on the painting board, take the finish brush and a little of the transparent gold ochre and paint the outline of the fan.

Then paint the grasses with chrome green to which a touch of yellow has been added. The small reeds may be painted with equal parts of chrome green and burnt sienna mixed.

Paint the birds with the lemon yellow using an occasional touch of black on the wings and tail. Make the eyes of brown madder with a ring of yellow around each. An occasional stroke of green-gold lustra paint on the breast, head and wings would add to the effect. Any of the lustra colors may be mixed with a medium made of equal parts of balsam of fir and turpentine.

"Dark green" makes a fine retouching for leaves painted on satin. "Fire" and "rich gold" bring out the effect in autumn leaves. The lustra colors are also very good for fancy lettering. A catalogue of patterns will be furnished on application.—E. S. L. THOMPSON, Winchester, Ind.

Inexpensive Curtains.—For one window get six yards of cheese cloth, cut it in two, fold up a hem for the bottom fourteen inches deep and fasten down by a row of double feather stitching, and three inches below work another row. For the top make a lap on the right side of fourteen inches, then fold up a hem four inches deep, fasten with feather stitching, which will leave the lap nine inches deep. If you use poles you will need no beading, if not you must allow for beading. In the center of the hem on the lap, chain stitch a vine or scroll, below which work another row of feather stitching. Fold a hem (for that side of the curtain which comes in the center of the window) one inch wide, fasten with feather stitching. The thread used for all the stitching is red marking cotton, which will wash well. If any try these, please report. I would also like to ask the sisters of the Household if any of them can do hem stitching on linen or lawn, if they will please write to the address below.—MRS. EMMA SNYDER, Mingusville, Dawson Co., Montana.

Knitting and Crocheting.

Knitting Abbreviations—k, knit; p, purl or seam; p 2 tog, purl two together; m narrow; s and t, slip and bind; t t o, throw thread over; b, bind; o, over; sl, slip; s m, seam.

Crocheting Abbreviations—l, loop; s c, single crochet; d c, double crochet; ch st, chain stitch; ch sl, slip chain stitch; d c o, double chain stitch; p, picot; ch, chain; s, space; o t s, crewel work; sl st, slip stitch; o t st, open stitch; t, treble; d t, short crochet.

Rose Leaf Insertion.—Cast on 27 stitches, 1st row—k 1—k 2 tog—o—k 2—k 2 tog—o—k 2—k 2 tog—o—k 2—k 2 tog—o—k 2—k 2 tog—o—k 1—o—k 2—o—s—k 2. 2d row—o—k 2—p 2 tog—p 2 tog—k 2. 3d row—o—k 3—o—s—k 2. 4th row—o—k 4—o—s—k 2. 5th row—o—k 5—o—s—k 2. 6th row—o—k 6—o—s—k 2. 7th row—o—k 7—o—s—k 2. 8th row—o—k 8—o—s—k 2. 9th row—o—k 9—o—s—k 2. 10th row—o—k 10—o—s—k 2. 11th row—o—k 11—o—s—k 2. 12th row—o—k 12—o—s—k 2. 13th row—o—k 13—o—s—k 2. 14th row—o—k 14—o—s—k 2. 15th row—o—k 15—o—s—k 2. 16th row—o—k 16—o—s—k 2. 17th row—o—k 17—o—s—k 2. 18th row—o—k 18—o—s—k 2. 19th row—o—k 19—o—s—k 2. 20th row—o—k 20—o—s—k 2. 21st row—o—k 21—o—s—k 2. 22d row—o—k 22—o—s—k 2. 23d row—o—k 23—o—s—k 2. 24th row—o—k 24—o—s—k 2. 25th row—o—k 25—o—s—k 2. 26th row—o—k 26—o—s—k 2. 27th row—o—k 27—o—s—k 2. 28th row—o—k 28—o—s—k 2. 29th row—o—k 29—o—s—k 2. 30th row—o—k 30—o—s—k 2. 31st row—o—k 31—o—s—k 2. 32d row—o—k 32—o—s—k 2. 33d row—o—k 33—o—s—k 2. 34th row—o—k 34—o—s—k 2. 35th row—o—k 35—o—s—k 2. 36th row—o—k 36—o—s—k 2. 37th row—o—k 37—o—s—k 2. 38th row—o—k 38—o—s—k 2. 39th row—o—k 39—o—s—k 2. 40th row—o—k 40—o—s—k 2. 41st row—o—k 41—o—s—k 2. 42d row—o—k 42—o—s—k 2. 43d row—o—k 43—o—s—k 2. 44th row—o—k 44—o—s—k 2. 45th row—o—k 45—o—s—k 2. 46th row—o—k 46—o—s—k 2. 47th row—o—k 47—o—s—k 2. 48th row—o—k 48—o—s—k 2. 49th row—o—k 49—o—s—k 2. 50th row—o—k 50—o—s—k 2. 51st row—o—k 51—o—s—k 2. 52d row—o—k 52—o—s—k 2. 53d row—o—k 53—o—s—k 2. 54th row—o—k 54—o—s—k 2. 55th row—o—k 55—o—s—k 2. 56th row—o—k 56—o—s—k 2. 57th row—o—k 57—o—s—k 2. 58th row—o—k 58—o—s—k 2. 59th row—o—k 59—o—s—k 2. 60th row—o—k 60—o—s—k 2. All row—s 1—k 2—o 2—purl all except knit 4, throw thrice—k 1—needle, and p 2 tog—k 2. 2d row—k 1—k 2—o—k 1—o—k 1—o—k 2—k 1—p 1—k 1—o—k 1—o—k 1—o—k 2—o—s—k 2. 3d row—s 1—k 2—o 2—p 2 tog—p 7—k 1—p 7—k 1—o 2—p 2 tog—k 2. 4th row—s 1—k 2—o—k 1—o—k 2—o—s—k 2. 5th row—s 1—k 2—o—k 1—o—k 1—o—k 1—o—s—k 1—o—p 1—o—k 1—o—k 1—o—k 1—o—k 2—o—s—k 2. 6th row—s 1—k 2—o—s—p 7—k 1—p 7—k 1—o 2—p 2 tog—k 2. 7th row—s 1—k 2—o—s—k 2—o—s—k 1—o—k 8—o—s—k 8 tog—p 1—k 3 tog—o—k 2—o—s—k 2—o 2—p 2 tog—k 2. 8th row—s 1—k 2—o 2—p 2 tog—k 1—o—k 5—o—s—k 3 tog—o—k 5—o—k 2—o 2—p 2 tog—k 2. 9th row—s 1—k 2—o—k 2 tog—o—k 1—o—k 2—o—s—k 2. 10th row—s 1—k 2—o 2—p 2 tog—purl all except 4, throw thread around needle—p 2 tog—a 2.—ALWAYS BUSY.

Child's Crocheted Hood.—Make a chain of ten stitches and join in the ends. Work over this chain (not into the stitches) in single crochet twenty-five times.

Second row—Single crochet in every stitch of first row.

Third row—Increase in every second stitch. Continue in this way until you have eight rows; then crochet two plain rows without increasing.

To form the shell—First row, double crochet six times in every fifth stitch.

Second row—Work ten double crochet in the center of every shell and one short stitch over the five skipped stitches. This forms a plain scallop. Crochet a row of chain stitches over the scallops by making four chain stitches and one short stitch in the center of each scallop. Crochet one plain row, and this finishes the crown of the hood. On this row crochet two more plain rows, leaving 25 stitches open to form the neck of the hood. On these three plain rows crochet two rows of shells as before, then three plain rows and two rows of shells.

Again crochet one row of chain stitches and one plain row of single crochet all around the hood, which finishes it to the edge and gives it an excellent shape. Finish off by any pretty lace-like edge all around the hood.

Correspondence.

BUTTER QUESTION ANSWERD.—A. B. Warner wants some one to tell him how to put down butter so that it will keep sweet one year, but I have never kept any butter one year, but I have kept butter eight months, and at the end of that time it was pronounced "sweet and good" by all who tasted it. We are now (middle of December), using butter that was packed down last June, and it would puzzle any one except an "expert" to distinguish it from fresh made. Sometimes the "expert butter judge" gets fooled about such things, but it would never do to tell them of it; so the other day, when one of them pronounced my butter a "very superior article of winter butter," and wanted to know what I used to color it with, I didn't tell him that I made that "superior butter" last June. "Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise," and that man was so full of butter knowledge, that I really was afraid to add anything to his stock of wisdom But I am willing to tell the BLADE readers all about it, and as the process isn't patented or copyrighted or anything of the kind, you can all use it. That butter was churned in a barrel churn, the churn stopped when the butter was in the "granular stage," the buttermilk drawn off, the butter washed in weak brine, and then packed, *without working*, in an oak firkin and covered with strong brine. It was not packed in solid, but lightly pressed down, and kept under the brine by an oaken "follower" with a weight on top. When wanted for the table, it was taken out and worked enough to put in shape. A better way would be to put the butter in bags made of cheese cloth, then pack in the firkin and cover with the brine. I don't mean that the butter would keep any better, but that it would be handier to get out. The bags should be made to hold about 2 lbs., and should be wet in brine before filling. Shall try that way next year.

Another way, is to work the butter, salt enough for the table, make into pound, or half pound rolls, wrap each roll, separately in cheese cloth, pack in the firkin and cover with brine. The brine should be boiled so that all the salt the water will dissolve, else it will take the salt from the butter. We keep our butter in a cellar that is clean, cool and dry. Don't put butter in water and "boil before salting and packing." You might have good grease, but you certainly would not have good butter. FANNY FIELD.

ABOUT POULTRY RAISING.—Some farmers go to a good deal of expense for blooded horses, cattle, hogs and sheep, and think it pays not only in the pleasure of handling and caring for them, but they bring better prices than "scrubs." But few farmers think it pays to raise the same idea in poultry raising.

There are varieties of fowls as much ahead of the old-fashioned dunghills as the Durham or Henford is ahead of the native or longhorn Texan. I have had several kinds of poultry in their purity, and have never found anything that could equal the Plymouth Rock. They are good winter layers, also lay well during the year; are good, fair sized, fair setters, and are a splendid table fowl.

The young cocks are quite hardy and feather early, making them a desirable fowl for the early market. The commission men of Chicago tell me they outsell any variety on the market. I have been keeping them for some time, and last year kept an account. I commenced in the spring with 48 hens and roosters. I sold during the year in eggs and chickens, including what we ate, $56.75 worth, and did not make any allowance for eggs used in the family, which would have amounted to quite a sum, as our family was large; part of the time we consumed a good many. At the end of the year I had 90 hens and roosters, almost double what I had at the beginning. My chicks were not disposed of on the market, and did not get broilers' prices; eggs were also sold at market prices.

I do not tell this thinking it a big thing, as some men that are in the breeding business can beat it very much. I only tell what I did, and any one can do the same. I hope to do well next season, for I can sell eggs for breeding purposes, and I hope to get more for my chicks than the market price. I am satisfied poultry raising can be made profitable, and fully convinced that it pays to keep good breeds of poultry as well as good breeds of stock. I did not keep any account of grain fed. They had the run of the farm and picked up a good deal that would have been wasted.—A POULTRY RAISER, Lansing, Mich.

FROM KANSAS.—I have been an interested reader of the dear old BLADE for several years and feel well acquainted with you all, although this is my first appearance among you. Having lately moved from Illinois hither, I thought perhaps you would like to hear from this part of sunny Kansas and sunny it is, having had only three cloudy days since I have been in the state, over two months. The cyclone did blow some times very hard, but it never has blown us off our feet yet, and we are not very heavy either.

I think this must be a good climate for people troubled with weak lungs. It is so dry and the winters are mild, compared with Illinois. It is unequaled as a stock country and vegetables grow to an enormous size. Peanuts are grown here quite extensively.

Several of our neighbors have cribbed 10,000 bushels of corn, and as for markets we have Kansas City, the Chicago of the Northwest, a few hundred miles to the east of us, and Denver west of us. One of our neighbors is completing an incubator and expects to realize 50 cents a piece for his spring chickens. There is railroad land here and a few homestead claims yet unoccupied.

These bluffs are covered with beautiful wild flowers in their season; sensative rose, prickly pear, pin cushion cactus and wild verbenas. There are also a great many petrified clams and petrified wood and lovely shell rock, that are new to me. If any are thinking of making a change, I hope they will come this way. Flour and dried fruits of all kinds are cheaper here than in Illinois.—M. PETTY, Wilson, Kas.

A TALK.—While I am writing it is the month of December. The trees are leafless and bare, or the few remaining leaves are brown and dead. The birds have all gone south save the chick-a-dees. I want to say a few words to those who have let their minds grow dull and stunted by the cares of housekeeping. This is one great cause of domestic unhappiness. Better let some of your work go undone than bend the godlike form and starve the immortal mind by too much manual labor. You can always find a way of managing a reasonable amount of reading without any neglect of home duties.

We are born for a higher destiny than that of earth, and let us prepare our minds for that realm where the light never wanes and the rainbow never fades.

I enjoy the editor's Home Talks very much. "Barbara Allen" write often.—MYSTERIOUS STRANGER.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—How any one can be so thoughtless as to have a dog-house door on the north side I do not know, for it is as wrong as can be. The cold north wind and snow blows into the house upon the dog, causing him to suffer with cold, when the house ought to be tight and warm on that side. It should be built so long again as it is wide, and the door ought to be on the south side close to the east end, so that the dog can put back out of the cold northern wind. Then it should stand in the room so that it can shine in at the door.

Every convalescent and every hungry ought to be room on the south side so that the sunbeams can work in the sick room. Sunbeams is cheap.—JOHN MANNING, M. Fitzgerrel & Co., K. S.

Suggestion.

I find by the BLADE of October 29, 1887, a pattern of knitting that has no explanation of the x, and have looked at them over one to see what it meant. I can't ask no longer, Can you inform me? If not, in the name of the knitters the true one, if I should write to her?—MRS. F. B. CERRY, Wilmington, Illinois.

Thanks for your good wishes. If you look at end of pattern you will see that it says, "this pattern can be knit as wide as is needed for a tidy by repeating the part of pattern between the x's." For instance, in the first row an x comes after k 2, then there is another before the last k 2. That means repeat p 1—n—k 3—o—n—o—n—o—k 1—o—n—o—n—o—k 3—n. So with the rest. The address given is a real one.—ED.

Will some one please tell me through the HOUSEHOLD how to ebonise pine? Also how to black straw hats?—IDA BROCKMAN, Humboldt, Neb.

Will some member of the HOUSEHOLD kindly tell us how to make a convenient and serviceable toilet case or basket for baby? Also what it should be furnished with?—DOT.

Will one of the numerous readers of the BLADE tell how to wash silk lace without injuring the fabric?—GRACE ALSTUM.

Is there not among the members of the HOUSEHOLD some old lady or invalid lady that would like a middle-aged woman as nurse and companion or help? Please answer through the BLADE, and I will write and give more particulars and references. —M. G. H.

1. How is "taxidermist" pronounced? 2. I have a friend who is greatly troubled with hair growing in his nose. Can any one tell me a remedy for it? The hair seems to be the same as that grown on the head, and is getting so thick that it interferes with his breathing. A remedy will be thankfully received. 3. Does the BLADE accept stories from any one if properly written, or has it regular contributors? What is the price generally paid for stories, say three columns in length? How will I send a story to the BLADE? Must I fold or roll it, and will I pay letter postage? How direct it?—MRS. N. W.

Separate the word into four syllables, thus: tax-i-der-mist. Accent first and third equally. This is given by both Webster and Worcester, although many educated people make it tax-id-erm-ist, with accent on the second.

The BLADE does not buy stories. Price vary. From $5 to $10 is the usual price for a story of two or three columns, though a well known writer gets more. Do not fold or roll manuscript to send any where. Write on one side of commercial note paper. You will have to pay letter postage.—[ED.

Can any one give me the method of treatment to effect a permanent cure for inflammation of the throat and lungs, by taking a slight cold, my throat becomes inflamed, and if neglected becomes very severe. I have been afflicted in this way for many years.—READER.

Will—"A Farmer"—whose article in a September number of the BLADE recommended warm water for catarrh, please tell us how he applied the warm water, where he applied it, how much and how often. Also can any of the BLADE readers testify by experience to the merits of the pillow inhaler for catarrh?—H. A. LUSK.

Will Miss Boutonn give through the BLADE what response a bridal couple should make when congratulated?—"NEW MEXICO."

"Thank you" is all that is usually necessary.—ED.

Please inform me through the HOUSEHOLD if there is anything that will stop up cracks in stoves? I would like to give a good home to a boy or girl; havn't any children, am middle-aged and live on a farm.—MRS. MARY CHIVILL, Osage Mission, Kansas.

Answers to Inquiries.

Please tell "Always Busy" she's a "brick." She has my sincere thanks and sympathy for stating so comprehensively her headache cure. I had grown most *bawid* headed wondering how the pesky application of ammonia was to be properly made so's to grow hair. I don't come under her term "goosie," I guess, 'cause I'm not troubled with headaches, but my hair slips out awfully. Now I'm going to stop it with hot water and ammonia if possible. Hope "Always Busy" will continue in the good work.

The ague cure ext. cinchonedia 4 drs., citric acid 1 oz, oil gaultheria 2 drs, alcohol 1 pt) published in the September 3, 1887 BLADE. I have put up and tasted—only touched the wet cork to my tongue or a can taste it yet, and I never expect to cure its taste. The formula is a most villainous one, and any one taking the prescribed dose of it, would immediately thereafter wish they had never seen the BLADE of that date. Let's have the ague.

I will tell the readers of the HOUSEHOLD how I put up my sausage, and we never fail to have it nice and fresh any time in the summer. Just put it in one gallon jars as soon as ground, and pour hot lard over it.—MAGGIE.

I should advise A. B. C. to use no cosmetic but that of fresh air, sunshine and proper diet. Rub the face with a towel softly but persistently after bathing it, both morning and evening, or at any time through the day. Remember that no cosmetic will do any good, but rather harm in the end. The chief thing is to maintain a good digestion, follow the laws of health as given in "Health and Beauty," and then the complexion will be seen to improve.—[ED.

To "Anxious Inquirer:" Your chicken have the roup. I cured mine by feeding them lard and black pepper. Put 2 tablespoonfuls pepper to 1 lb. lard; also, give them copperas in their drinking water every day, 1 oz. to 6 qts. water.—SOLVE.

Sometime ago some one inquired what to do for chronic acidity of the stomach. Now I am not much of a writer, but I will try and give such information as I am enabled to. In our family it has been customary to treat sour stomach with one or more doses of muriatic acid, varying the quantity according to the age of the patient, from one-half drop to two drops. It has always proved successful. This was before we had a plenty of fruits; for the last ten years there has been no trouble from this cause; the children having access to the apple pile. For apples have been our main fruit for eleven months of the year. How about chronic sour stomach? I don't know, but I venture to say that if there is a plentiful supply of fruits a chronic case of this character will be almost unheard of.

Tell "Call" that if he will dust her hous plants with air-slacked lime or plaster paris, the green worm will most likely disappear in a short time. To her, second, I will say that early spring time has proved with me as good a time as any to break clover sod, but if done late in the fall it is apt to expose a good many larvæ of noxious insects to the rigors of winter, and destroy them. Her third question she will no doubt find answered to her satisfaction in one of the more recent numbers of the BLADE, and to her fourth I will reply that the practice followed by me and by my father for the last 50 years has been, to gather seed corn before it becomes hard, and tying two and two together by the husks, hang them in a shady place to mature and harden, and afterwards, if practicable, hang the ears in the loft or some other convenient place, out of the reach of rats and mice. I find that this method is also endorsed by seedsmen, who understand the business.—AGRICOLA.

Here is a recipe for chapped hands which is very good: Take 3 fluid ozs. of glycerine, the yolk of an egg, 15 drops of carbolic acid. First mix the acid with the glycerine, then the mixture to the yolk by adding the glycerine and acid in small portions at a time. Put it in a bottle and keep it in a cool place, or it may spoil.—"ALOMA."

Recipes.

Rice Dumplings.—Pick and wash a pound of rice, and boil it gently in 3 quarts of water till it becomes dry, keeping the pot well covered, and not stirring it. Then take it off the fire and spread it out to cool on the bottom of an inverted sieve, loosening the grains lightly with a fork, that all the moisture may be evaporated. Pare a dozen pippins or some large, juicy apples, and scoop out the core; then fill up the cavity with marmalade, or with lemon and sugar; cover every apple all over with a thick coating of boiled rice. Tie up each in a separate cloth and put them into a pot of cold water. Boil an hour and a quarter, or until the apples are done through. Eat with sugar and cream.

Irish Stew.—Cut pieces of salt beef and pork into mince, put them in a stew pan with 6 whole pepper corns, 2 blades of mace, a few cloves, 1 teaspoonful of celery seeds and a faggot of dried sweet herbs; cover with water, and stew gently for an hour, then add fragments of carrots, turnips, parsley, potatoes and two sliced onions, also 2 tablespoonfuls of vinegar to flavor. Thicken with flour or rice, remove the herbs, and pour into a dish with toasted bread or freshly baked biscuits broken small, and serve hot.

Dessert Cheesecake.—Break down well, take off the husks, dissolve a pan of hasty cocoa in a wineglass of water, and add the juice of a lemon. Beat the cheesecakes into this syrup, flavor with a very little cinnamon, and put them into a glass dish. Whip the white of an egg to a froth, and add to it a tablespoonful of powdered sugar, and a little lemon juice; put this on the cheesecakes, and serve.

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Our Young Folks.

BLADE TEMPERANCE LEGION.

Motto: Of Ourselves we will be Masters.

Pledge.

WE DO HEREBY PROMISE OURSELVES THAT FROM THIS TIME UNTIL WE ARE 21 YEARS OLD WE WILL NOT TASTE INTOXICATING LIQUORS OF ANY KIND, AND WE WILL EXERT ALL OF OUR INFLUENCE TO PREVENT THEIR USE BY OTHERS. WITNESS OUR NAMES:

EUREKA, IA.	LE RAYSVILLE, PA.	WAUKON, IA.
Daisy Williams,	A. D Green.	Dory B Carroll,
Lottie Williams,	WEYAUWEGA, WIS.	L. Ray Carroll.
Myrtle Williams,	Archie L. Roach,	ARMADA, MICH.
Ethel Williams,	Alberta Roach,	A Lincoln Pierce.
Lacy Williams,	Ralph W Roach,	TIPTON IA.
Sallie Hoyt,	Lua H Roach,	Avery Reeder,
Neva Hoyt,	Francis E Stiles.	Lizzie Reeder.
Lottie Hoyt,	SOLEDAD, CAL.	MT. IDAHO, I. T.
Lizzie Rogers,	Ezubert Brown,	Nicholas Lamb,
Eva Rogers,	Pearl F Brown.	Carrie Lamb.
Fred Keyser,	SPAULDING, IA.	JAVA, O.
Nellie Keyser,	Minnie Wakefield	W Hoy Dill,
Myrtle Sheldon,	Fernin Ross,	Rolve B Dill.
Hattie Sheldon,	Nerva Ross,	CUMBERLAND, O.
Sadie Sheldon,	Bzella Stephenson	Homer M Baird,
Luella Catlett,	A Stephenson.	Willemina Baird.
Lillie Stiles,	W Stephenson,	AVERY, MAN.
Rose Clary,	L Stephenson,	Charles W Giffin,
Mattie Jenkins,	Minnie Johnson,	Minnie E Giffin,
Ruby Brindle,	Evy Johnson,	Lester I Giffin,
Eva Waller,	Alock Johnson,	Annie Giffin,
Robert Fitzgerald,	Katie Clucks,	Etta Giffin,
Mary Fitzgerald,	Alice Cluck,	Amanda Wyant,
Nora Fitzgerald,	Anna Cluck,	Anna Smith,
Nellie Kincaid,	Millard Cluck,	Clara Dunham,
Sadie Fitzgerald,	N Hoakinson,	Belle Gerrington,
Emma Parkison,	Lilly Hoskinson,	Mattie Wyant,
Minnie Kerlow,	Flora Rose,	Gretta Hill,
Archie Johnson,	Lottie Pearce,	Rue E Black,
Flora McElroy,	Nellie Peavee,	Minnie M Jones,
Frank Brindle,	Maggie Cosnell,	Ethel Custer,
Lizzie Gerking,	Willie Larson,	Lillie Ransom,
WASHINGTON, D C.	Samuel Larson,	Anna Huff,
Charlie Morrison	Alfred Larson,	Elmer Giffin,
Hugo Franke,	Paul McGuffin,	Ernest McDonald
Fritz Hummell,	Willie Hall,	Forrest McDonald
Matilda Hummell,	Lena Hall,	Don Wakeman,
Ethel Baker,	Etta Hall,	Eva Smith,
Max Maxwell,	Ida Combs,	Harvy Wright,
Willie Thomas,	Agnes Crider,	Frank Wright,
Bernard Lee,	Stella Hardy,	Cora Smith,
A P Wylie,	Ralph Hardy,	Emma Smith,
Frank Carey,	Fanny Burr,	KARLINGTON, KAN.
Eddie Shirley,	ISLAND, KAN.	Edie Goad,
WILMINGTON, ILL.	S Roseberry,	Ella Jaynes,
Ruth Gurney,	Emma Roseberry	Nettie Silver,
Kittie Barker,	Alice Roseberry,	Minnie Silver,
Henrietta Holst,	L Roseberry,	Nancy Goad,
Frank Gurney,	Alva Roseberry,	Mollie Cornelius,
John B Gurney,	Loduska Beunett,	Ettie Swan,
SHERMAN, ILL.	Cora Miller,	Elmer Throndson
Joe Larkin,	Con Freeman,	Tom Jaynes,
Eva M Larkin,	Paul Freeman,	Johnnie James,
E Immusche,	Harry Swan,	Johnnie Abell,
E W Lawson,	DOWAGIAC, MICH.	Ally Abell,
Henry H Burke,	F Hammond,	Herbie Roe,
Frank W Cox,	F Hammond,	Claude Roe,
Lillie M Garner,	Alva Roseberry,	Willie Gilderson,
Nicolas Sidel,	Loduska Beunett,	Clarence Fancher
Hattie Lawson,	Cora Miller,	Jennie Brianing,
Oscar Lawson,	Annie Cater,	Mary Wilber,
Anna Sidel,	Nettie Waldron,	Nettie Hewitt,
E Immusche,	Bertie Waldren,	Harry Papson.
Mary A Olsen,	Daniel Esaign,	Alta Gyer,
Michael Reilly.	H Frizell,	Ida Abell.
MANCHESTER, IA.	Annie Frizzell.	ARCADIA, O.
Mary Patton,	Annie Frizzell.	Nettie Crozier,
Jessie Logan,	A Hoagenboom,	Maggie Meusel,
Freddy Logan,	Mary E Frizl,	Lulu Ebersole,
Alice L Logan,	Katie Smith,	Libbie Smith,
Minnie A Logan,	Maggie Munson,	May Miller.
Harrie Logan,	Carrie Munson,	Jessie Biggs,
Allie P Dunton,	Katie Romer,	Maggie Brookman,
O E Stowe,	Daisy Allen,	Etta Smith,
Jennie O Seaton,	Nellie Hammond	Colia Eberiole,
Jimmie Cross,	Nettie Noyes,	Bella Hammond,
Arie Bantz,	Katie Moroney,	David Moffit,
Oscar L Bishop,	Mary Harris,	F Williamson,
Ettie McFadden,	Willie Gilderson,	Maude King,
Maggie M Fadden	Ella Frizzell,	Metta Ringer,
John McFadden,	Arty Sheldon,	Sadie Good,
LAKEVILL

The Farm.

In this department we cordially invite questions relating to all other matters connected with farming and farm life, crop reports, etc. Communications should be written legibly, and on one side of the paper only, and never on the same sheet with business letters. The full name and full address should in all cases accompany the communication.

Answers to Inquiries.

CARP.—Not long since in the BLADE appeared a communication, signed "W. B.," Pittsburg. It was well written, and gave much information in relation to carp and their propagation. The full name was sent to the editor of the BLADE FARM, but after he had read the communication carefully, he saw that the writer advised those who desired carp to address the U. S. Fish company, Columbus, O. The editor, being pretty well acquainted with matters regarding fish in this state, came to the conclusion that there was no such thing as the U. S. Fish company, and altered the communication so that people living in Ohio might get fish from a reliable source, and therefore advised addressing Sec. Daniels, of the Ohio Fish commissioners, Sandusky, O., giving all that was deemed good in the communication of "W. B." As to the wisdom of not giving "W. B.'s" name in full, we give the following from "Gleanings in Bee Culture," published in Medina, O.:

A CARP SWINDLE.—An apparently extensive and mean swindle is just being unearthed at Columbus, Ohio, through the exertions of our association. I will forward the particulars as soon as possible. In the meantime, I will say that developments thus far show that parties at Pittsburg, Pa., and Zanesville, O., are mixed up in the matter. A large number of newspapers have been investigated into the publications of a very plausible communication, ostensibly in behalf of the U. S. Fish Commission, but directing readers to address the "U. S. Fish Co." (not Commission, observe), Columbus, O. The postmaster at Columbus writes us that there is no such "Co." as the "U. S. Fish Co." at Columbus, and that some swindle is contemplated, as a great many letters have been accumulating there for the bogus "Co." A second letter, dated yesterday, says a woman has finally called for the letters, claiming to represent some man at Zanesville. The postmaster is holding them.

MILTON P. PEIRCE.

Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 5, 1885.

The editor of the journal named adds:

Thanks, friend P. Our friends will please take notice, so as not to be humbugged by the "U. S. Fish Co."

All kinds of swindlers endeavor to impose upon the editor and readers of the BLADE FARM, and it takes constant care and watchfulness to keep them at arm's length. It is amazing to see the number of letters received promising to give something for nothing, yet underlying the proposed kindness there is a cunningly laid trap to impose upon people, and it is a pleasure to say that nearly every attempt of the rascals has been detected and their communications thrown into the waste basket. The writer "W. B." may wish to do the fair thing, but we warn all readers of the BLADE that it is best at all times to deal with well known and responsible parties. The Fish commissioners are the safest and best to write to, and the BLADE will, on request, give the names of the fish commissioners of any state. Those of Ohio are: Col. L. A. Harris, Cincinnati; James Dority, Toledo, and George Daniels, Sandusky. The Pennsylvania Fish commissioners are: John Gray, Greensburg; James Duffy, Marietta, and H. H. Derr, Wilkesbarre. In a week or two the BLADE will have on an article giving all information possible regarding carp.—ED.]

COLD AND SORE THROAT IN CHICKENS.—Anxious Inquirer's chickens have a cold and sore throat. Keep them in a warm place and feed them warm feed mixed with a little cayenne pepper. If very bad, swab their throats with tincture of iron diluted with water.—A. D. H.

Information Wanted.

LAME COW—AILING CALF.—I have a valuable cow that gets lame and stiff every fall and spring, generally in November and March. Will some one please tell me what ails her and a remedy? She have a spring calf that has been ailing for about three weeks. The first I noticed there was anything wrong with it, it couldn't suck, would try to but couldn't, but has since got so it can suck. It froths at the mouth some and has a slight enlargement on its throat that seems to be pst to it.—W. M. B. [Your cow is likely attacked by rheumatism. In this case keep the cow well housed with clean bedding. Give the following: Sulphur, eight ounces; ginger, one-half ounce. Give in a gruel every third day. For pain in the joints or loins this is excellent: Neatsfoot oil, four ounces; oil of origanum, oil of turpentine, and laudanum, each one ounch; mix and apply by gentle and thorough friction. The statement as to what ails your calf is not sufficiently definite. It acts like the croup. In this, there is a hoarse cough, discharge of spittle from the mouth and running from the nose. To cure, a moderate purge is necessary, and small doses of saltpeter in the drinking water. To clear the throat of the small membrane, let the calf inhale the vapor from slacking lime, being careful that it is not too concentrated. The latter is good in case of hoose.—ED.]

BLINDNESS.—There is a disease among my cattle that causes blindness. I have three head that are all blind in the right eye, and to day I notice that one of them is blind in both eyes. Eye at first looks whiter and they are blind at once. I thought they had chaff in the eye, and used burnt alum to remove the film but done no good. A film grows over the eye, and water and matter is discharged from it. They appear well otherwise. Can you, or any of the readers of the BLADE tell me what to do.—J. A. Stever, Penn Yan, N. Y. [We cannot say what causes the blindness in your cattle. Standing in stalls that are wet by urine, or on manure piles where the ammonia escapes will cause blindness. Also hay seed particles. That which causes the blindness should be made a subject of close investigation. Have you examined their hay or straw carefully to see if there is no foreign body that will cause irritation. Lotions are of little use in such cases. If the cause is discovered, the cure may be speedy. Perhaps there is something the matter with the head. Have any of the readers of the BLADE Farm had cattle effected as described.—ED.]

SHE BALKS.—I have a mare that balks. She has only done so lately. She run down and got rather weak. What is the cause? What can I do to cure her?—E., Dakota. [Cannot say from what you state what is the matter with your mare. Perhaps this condition powder would bring her out all right: Flowers of sulphur, cream of tartar, saltpeter, each half an ounce. Mix and give in the food. Do not give it more than once a week for three weeks. To prevent it balking. It is difficult to get a horse over the habit, which must be done without the whip, or even its presence. Some will back and break your vehicle, and to whip them will probably produce a kick. It is not the weight or their inability to pull from any cause; they have been spoiled, and do it for mere devilry, knowing their power in that. The only way to get over it is to find what they are fond of, sugar, or apples, or whatever it is; and before you get in to drive let them advance to you to get the desired object; give it, jump in quickly, and start off immediately. The object is to get the idea out of their noddle; the expected treat does it. You don't give them a chance to balk; instead of it, you treat your horse to something. He forgets it for the time, and possibly by frequent attentions may be cured for all time as far as you are concerned. When another owner gets him, he may go back to his old trifling unless he knows how to tickle him.—ED.]

LICE.—Please inform me what will kill blue lice on cattle.—W. G. HAMRICK, Webster C. H., West Virginia. [See last week's BLADE.—ED.]

Robert W. Hamilton, Murphysboro, would like some reader of the BLADE to send him the copy of the BLADE containing directions for making a homemade incubator, that appeared not long since.

BAD ORDER IN MILK.—Will some of the many patrons of the BLADE give me a reason, if possible, why a choice young cow in fine condition, well fed, well cared for in every way, and which came in about the first of April, and has given a large quantity of milk through the summer months, on cool weather approached the milk after standing emits a bad odor; also becomes bitter and impossible to churn the cream into butter. This being the second season of the same difficulty.—R. D., Niagara Co., N. Y.

How I Raise Onions.

To the Editor of the Blade Farm:

As the question and subject seems visible sign "how I raise onions," I will give my way, and it has proved successful. In November I prepare my ground as for another crop, and if it will as I can with a plower and then log off the rows 16 or 18 inches apart, and cut the onions in the rows about five inches apart; cover them slightly with dirt, then cover the whole with coarse manure, and when the ground thaws in the spring, and when they commence growing, rake off the manure, and they will grow and ripen early. Onions are a profitable crop, and should be more generally raised by farmers. I have been my plan, but I shall vary in the future, making the ridges wide so that the coming crop, which will quickly put its vine a pillow in the cultivation. By this mode of cultivation I shall cover the vines, and not the entire surface. In this climate one or two inches is as deep as they need to be covered, though the ground freezes much deeper. My per centage of loss is less when planted than when stored for the coming season.—R. S. HULIN, Erwin, Tenn.

Workshop Notes on Coloring.

To the Editor of the Blade Farm:

Artificial coral can be made of four parts yellow rosin and one part vermilion, melted very fine.

Black Walnut Satin.—Asphaltum, thinned with turpentine, will stain a beautiful black walnut color; but it must be varnished over.

Blue.—Boil four quarts of alum with 65 parts of water.

Purple.—Boil a pound of chip logwood in three quarts of water for an hour, then add four ounces of alum.

Ebony.—Wash the wood several times with a solution of sulphate of iron, let it dry, then apply a hot decoction of logwood and nutgalls. When dry, wipe it with a wet sponge, and when dry again, polish it with linseed oil.

To Stain Musical Instruments.—Boil one pound of ground Brazil wood in three quarts, of water, for one hour, steam it, then add half an ounce of cochineal; boil half an hour and no longer. This makes a crimson stain.

Light Mahogony.—Brush over the surface with diluted nitrous acid, and when dry, apply with a soft brush the following: Four ounces of dragon's blood, one ounce of carbonate of soda, three pints of alcohol. Let it stand in a warm place, shake it frequently, and then strain.

Rosewood.—Boil 8 oz. of logwood in three pints of water until reduced to half; apply it boiling hot two or three times, letting it dry each time. Put in the streaks with a camel's hair brush, dipped in a solution of copperas and verdigris in a decoction of logwood.

Black.—First sponge the wood with a solution of chlorhydrate of aniline in water to which a small quantity of copper chloride is added. Allow it to dry, and go over it with a solution of potassium bichromate. Repeat the process twice or thrice, and the wood will take a fine black color, unaffected by light or chemicals. J. D. LEISURE, Lansing, Mich.

P. S.—Will some of the readers of the BLADE be so kind as to send me the BLADE of July 30, 1885? If so, they will greatly oblige one that will do them a favor when called on. J. D. L.

Feeding Flaxseed to Stock.

In an article on this subject, the *Live Stock Journal* says: It is not safe to feed flaxseed in the straw to cows in calf, unless in very small quantity. And it is not prudent to feed this seed in much quantity to cattle, horses, sheep or pigs. It is too laxative as a common feed, but at the same time it is one of the best means at the feeder's command to insure good health to his animals. Our correspondent can use it most profitably by shelling the seed and then grinding one bushel of flaxseed with fifteen bushels of oats, or oats and corn; or he can boil the flaxseed and then mix it, in small proportion, with the oats or oats and corn. This ration, thus so small a proportion of flax seed that there is no danger of injury, and there is still flaxseed enough for the health of the cow. If the flaxseed is boiled, one pint of seed, boiled, will be enough to mix in the feed for two cows. If the seed is ground with oats, as mentioned, the cow would eat a little more than the half pint here given, for boiled seed, but after boiling it has a stronger effect, and it would not be safe to feed more per cow, if in calf. This ground feed, in this proportion, is admirable for horses, mules, sheep, or pigs, and the amount of feed per day would be the usual weight of oats fed to such animals. This combined ground ration makes horses fat, will always have a slick, soft coat, and this also indicates good digestion. It is true that a small quantity, as here indicated, of flaxseed will enable animals to digest and assimilate more straw than when no seed is given. This combination with flaxseed will be found effective in fattening cattle, pigs, or sheep. The danger in feeding in the straw is that too much will be eaten of the flaxseed, causing too great relaxation.

Florida Oranges.

The yield of the Florida orange crop will be very near 900,000 boxes. The boxes will average 165 to 170 oranges. That is, standard boxes. Last season the standard box sold 180, the season previous only about 160. Fruit is less rough than ever known before. The fruit is larger, brighter and smoother than last year. As to price, the grower will get from $1.75 to $3 per box.

Winter Dairying.

An Ohio dairyman, speaking of the profitableness of winter dairying, remarks that the time will never come when winter dairying shall be overdone. With warm, well-lighted, clean stable, plenty of early cut and well-cured grass, supplemented with the contents of a good silo, and a well-filled root cellar, the comfort, health and profit of the cows should be no more problematical in winter than in summer.

Potato Scab.

A correspondent of the *Western Rural* claims to have discovered, by the aid of a powerful microscope, the cause of the disease known as potato scab. He finds the liquid portion of a scabby potato swarming with living organisms, microbes, but whether as cause or effect, he is as yet uncertain. He believes salt a partial preventive, and that rank, green manures invite the disease.

Large Maple Leaves.

A gentleman who lives in the East informs the BLADE that Mr. B. H. Jones, of Greenfield, Erie county, Pa., has a Maple tree of the hard, or sugar variety, on which enormous leaves grow. One leaf grown on the tree measured 15 inches from tip to tip crosswise. This is certainly a curiosity. It is said these leaves are wonderful to look upon as they grow upon the tree.

To Breeders of Draft Horses.

Prof. Williams, of Edinburg, gives the following advice to breeders of draft horses: "It would be well if breeders would give their stallions a few hours' daily work during winter and not feed them so highly. By such liberal and nutritive feeding as they are generally accustomed to during the idle moments of winter, the animals become overloaded with fat."

Farm Notes.

Some heavy yields are reported by the *Western Farmer*, Madison, Wis. It states that a farmer near Seymour, Outagamie county, Wis., averaged nearly 200 bushels of corn per acre; that an Adams county farmer averaged 103 bushels of clover seed from fourteen acres; that a farmer near Baraboo raised 300 bushels of potatoes from a barrel of tubers, and that a farmer near Mount Hope threshed an average crop of 35½ bushels of wheat per acre.

The Arabs still continue to obtain butter in the primitive fashion of 3,000 years ago. When traveling they milk their camels at dawn, and after their morning meal put the cream in a sheepskin bag and resume their journey. The jolting received enroute does the churning and butter is ready at the night encampment.

The acreage devoted to the cultivation of tobacco in the United States is said to have increased from 638,841 acres in 1880 to 700,000 acres at the present time, while the product has increased from 472,061,000 to 600,000,000 pounds. Until 1870 Virginia led as a tobacco manufacturing state. Now Kentucky is first. The late crop of that state is said to be the largest ever raised, with the exception of that of 1876, which amounted to 181,484,000 pounds.

Mr. H. H. Stoddard says, to kill lice on fowls, pigeons and song birds, or fleas on cats and dogs, dust pyrethrum powder well down to the skin on every part of the animal. To apply it to a setting hen, disturb her slightly when on the nest at night, and cause her to bristle up her feathers, when the powder may be sprinkled over every part of her head, neck, sides and back, and by scattering it all over the nest and eggs, it will be brought into contact with the hen's under parts, also.

Found His Son on a Directory Table.

BUFFALO, Dec. 21.—Thos. R. Strathern has just returned from Cincinnati, where he was called by the death of his son. He was accompanied by his wife and son, R. W. Strathern. They drove to St. Mary's Hospital, where the boy had died of typhoid fever, and there learned that after three days the body had been given in charge of the city undertaker, who said he had interred it in the potter's field. They could not find the grave until they found a directory, in which the undertaker had entered the name and number of the grave. They straightway went to the potter's field and found the grave. The father then had the body disinterred in search of the valuables. They were all found in the coffin, and were identified by the father.

NEW STATE, WAR AND NAVY BUILDING.

WASHINGTON CITY.

The Public Buildings—Something About the State, War and Navy Department Buildings, the New Pension Office and the General Post-office.

Thousands of people who were in Washington during the war, or shortly after its close, still retain the impressions then obtained of the place. All others who have not visited the capital within a few years—and they constitute a vast majority of citizens—scarcely realize what a beautiful city it has come to be. It may be said, also, that comparatively few people, even among the well-informed, exactly comprehend the magnitude of the government machinery kept in motion here, or anything about the details of its movement.

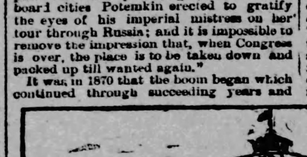
When the formal transfer of the government from Philadelphia to Washington took place in October, 1800, a single "packet" sloop transported all the office furniture of the departments, besides seven large boxes and five small ones containing the "archives" of the government. The officials numbered 54 persons, including Pres. Adams, the secretaries and the various clerks. They came to the city in various conveyances, and as they had left pleasant, comfortable quarters in Philadelphia, the crudeness and discomfort of Washington at that time produced a feeling of disgust. Mrs. Adams spoke of Washington as "this wilderness city," and Secretary of the Treasury Wolcott, in a letter to his wife, said: "There are but few houses anywhere, and most of them are small, miserable huts."

A striking description of the city as it appeared at the time the government took possession of it was written by Hon. John Cotton Smith, then a member of Congress from Connecticut. He says: "One wing of the Capitol only had been erected, which, with the President's house, a mile distant from it, both constructed of white sandstone, were shining objects of dismal contrast with the scene around them. Instead of recognizing the avenues and streets portrayed on the plan of the city, not one was visible, unless we except a road, with two buildings on each side of it, called New Jersey avenue. Pennsylvania avenue, as laid down on paper, from the Capitol to the Presidential mansion, was nearly the whole distance a deep morass, covered with elder bushes, which were cut through to the President's house."

Probably our entire navy would not now be sufficient to carry the effects of the government departments, with all the officers and employes, from the capital to-day. But the growth of this machinery and all its appliances has been, though rapid, gradual, like that of the country at large. The transformation which the city of Washington, however, has undergone within the last twelve or fifteen years must have been witnessed, "before and after taking," to be fully appreciated. Down to the outbreak of the war it could not have been regarded in any sense a modern city. There had been some increase of population, but little else. Newspapers everywhere spoke derisively of the town, and for many years the capitol building was called "the palace in the wilderness," and Pennsylvania avenue "the great Serbonian bog." When the civil war began in 1861 Washington had 63,000 people, and was still what Webster had previously denominated it, "a city of magnificent distances." During the years of the rebellion the streets, as extensive army encampment, and for several years after the war closed is continued to be a very unattractive place. About this time an English tourist wrote of it: "The whole place looks run up in a night, like the cardboard cities Potemkin erected to gratify the eyes of his imperial mistress on her tour through Russia; and it is impossible to remove the impression that, when Congress is over, the place is to be taken down and packed up till wanted again."

It was in 1870 that the boom began which continued through succeeding years and has made Washington a city worthy to be the capital of a great nation. Three conditions contributed to give the impetus for a start at this time. First, thousands of Northern men called here by the war had been made acquainted with the general shiftlessness of the place and its lack of desirable qualities for the seat of government; second, an energetic and able Western man frightened Washingtonians greatly by his persistent advocacy of the removal of the seat of government to St. Louis—a proposition which received a great deal of influential support through the press and otherwise. Last, but not least of these conditions was the presence of the man for the occasion, in the person of Gov. Shepherd, then president of the board of Public Works, and afterwards known as "Boss" Shepherd.

It is generally conceded that he was a schemer and that the execution of his designs involved the feathering of his own nest and largely benefiting a ring of contractors. But his far sightedness and the wisdom of his plans are now universally recognized, and the wonderful results of his work are warmly applauded by everybody, except, perhaps, an occasional old-fogy taxpayer of the city. Even these, who growled bitterly at first, have been mostly reconciled by the increased valuation of their property. Shepherd is now credited with an ambition which was much more than a merely selfish one. Of the 300 miles of beside streets and avenues of the city, 80 miles were improved and nearly all the thickly settled streets were handsomely paved. A general and very costly system of sewerage was inaugurated and the grade of many streets was radically changed. Scores of new parks were graded, fenced and set with trees and fountains, and the old nuisance, the Tiber canal, was filled up.



POSTOFFICE BUILDING.

All this, briefly outlined, swallowed up about $30,000,000, of which amount Congress appropriated only $6,000,000 in cash. The remainder was raised by means of improvement bonds, issued in favor of floating corporations, some of which were the property of the city. The board of public works did not close with the consent of Shepherd. It has gone steadily forward, aided by the government and by various private corporations, until the Washington of to-day is a grand and beautiful city. Three years ago Congress agreed to appropriate one half the amount of the cost of the improvements of the Potomac river, giving a water channel from the navy yard bridge to Georgetown 1,000 feet wide and 25 feet deep.

This new building was an absolute necessity, the force of this bureau having for several years been located in three or four leased buildings in different parts of the city at great disadvantage. The office, through its sub-agencies, disburses over $30,000,000 per year in pensions. Something over 540,000 claims were allowed between 1861 and 1884, and their are now nearly 330,000 names on the rolls, with upwards of 265,000 claims still pending.

The general postoffice building, though not one of the largest, is one of the best constructed and most architecturally consistent public buildings. Its site was occupied in the early days of Washington by a large brick structure, erected for a hotel by a sanguine individual who had more penetration than money. Being unable to complete it the building was offered as a prize in a lottery and won by two orphan children, who held the lucky ticket. They were without means to finish it, and the building stood for ten years in this condition. Finally it was used as a theater, and the first play ever given in Washington was performed in it. In 1810 the government purchased the property and completed the building, using it for the postoffice and patent office. In 1836 this building, with all the models, etc., was destroyed by fire, and the present structure was erected soon after. It is constructed of New York marble, and cost $2,000,000. The patent office, opposite, with its vast stores of models, etc., the massive treasury building, with its well-filled vaults, and its annex, the bureau of engraving and printing, where our bank notes are made, are each subjects worthy of a special article by themselves.

Important Convention Called to Meet at Fargo, Dakota.

FARGO, Dec. 24.—A call has been issued for a delegate convention to meet at Fargo, Jan. 12, and continue in session several days, composed of from one to fourteen delegates from each of the 70 counties of North and Central Dakota, also a portion of Northern Minnesota, the latter and Central Dakota only to take part in the discussion of matters of common interest. The subjects stated are to give expression to public sentiment upon division and statehood, the ruling of Commissioner Sparks in law matters, and the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Northern Pacific land case. It is believed that a large majority of the people of the entire area of the proposed state favor the measure, as one state, and will make strenuous objections to the division. An appropriation is wanted from Congress to dig a mile and a half canal to connect Lakes Traverse and Big Stone, and improve navigation of the Minnesota river, giving a water channel from the navy yard bridge to Georgetown 1,000 feet wide and 25 feet deep.

A Widow Dies.

SAN ANTONIO, Dec. 24.—Mrs. Mary Sherman, widow of Gen. Sherman, died here this morning of pneumonia, aged 70 years.

News of the Week.

BOTHERING THE BOURBONS.

The Prohibition Movement in the South Threatens to Disrupt the Democratic Party.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The seeming strange outburst of the prohibition fever in the Southern states, threatening, as it does, to take possession of Georgia, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, Mississippi and even Kentucky, the birth-place of "Bourbonism," is greatly worrying the old Bourbons, who foresee trouble in 1888.

The New York *World* has had correspondents in Georgia and Kentucky reviewing the situation, and the result of their labors is published in that paper. The correspondent in Kentucky says that the majority of the prohibition counties are in the mountains where "moonshine" whisky and lawlessness abound, but that in other sections, where the people have won their fight, crime has been gradually lessened; that prohibition gained its first victory in the state in Bullitt county, twelve years ago, and that county, which was then one of the most lawless, is now one of the most orderly counties in the state; that the sentiment of the state is rapidly coming to be merely for temperance, and has taken a firm stand for prohibition, the Prohibition vote in the state being 39,405, out of a total of 277,000; that the Prohibition workers have declared that they mean to submit to the coming legislature a general law placing the issue squarely before the people, and that plans are being considered to nominate a full state ticket in 1887. Judge Fountain T. Fox, the head of the Prohibition party in Kentucky, is quoted as saying:

"If the legislature does not adopt our law it will strengthen our vote in 1887, and cripple the changes of the Democratic nominee in the contest against the Republicans. When the prohibition law is once carried its friends have the right to fill the offices to be certain of its execution, because we have no reason to expect our enemies to execute it when this would prove their ruin. I am preparing a sixteenth constitutional amendment on this subject, to be submitted this winter to the Kentucky legislature. By section 1 no distilled or fermented liquors shall be brought into this county for sale at wholesale or retail. By section 2 no distilled or fermented liquors made in any one state shall be sold for importation into another state, there to be disposed of at wholesale or retail."

The correspondent in Atlanta gives the credit of the great resolution in that State, which, he says, "threatens the solidity of the South, to James G. Thrower, a plasterer, who came to that city from Minneapolis, Minn., and in October, 1887, organized a Good Templar lodge. As the order extended he refused to hold office himself, but conferred them on the 'colonels' and 'judges,' who were thus led to believe that they were the leaders, when they were, in fact, but the puppets in his hands."

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

A Letter from the Pope on the Subject—Responsibility of the Clergy.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 24.—A copy of a letter sent by Pope Leo XIII to the Roman Catholic Hierarchy of England has just been received in Baltimore by Archbishop Gibbons, the Primate of the church in America. The subject of the letter is Christian education. It has been translated, and will be published in full in the *Catholic Mirror*. The Holy Father commends the great vigilance of the clergy in looking after the Christian education of the children of England. He encourages and praises them, and assures them of his special consideration and good will in prosecuting their meritorious work. The laity also come in for a share of the Pope's commendation for their readiness to supply what is needed for the maintenance of the schools, not only the wealthy contributors, but those who are of slender means and poor. The Pope then continues:

In these days, and in the present condition of the world, when the tender age of childhood is tempted on every side by so many and various dangers, hardly anything can be imagined more fitting than the union with literary instructions of sound teaching in faith and morals. For this reason we have more than once said that we strongly approved of the voluntary schools which, by the work and liberality of private individuals, have been established in America and elsewhere. We desire their number increased as much as possible. We ourselves, seeing the condition of things in the city continue with these greatest of effort and at great cost to provide abundance of such schools for the children of Rome, for it is fit and by these schools the Catholic faith, our greatest and best inheritance, is preserved whole and entire. In these schools the liberty of parents is respected and what is most needed, especially in the wealthy, is free of opinion and action, is provided. It is by these schools that good citizens are brought up for the state, for there is no better citizen than the man who had believed and practiced the Christian faith from his childhood. The future condition of the State depends of the early training of the children. The very foundations of the State are ruined by the destructive error of those who would have children brought up without religious education. You see, therefore, venerable brethren, with what earnest forethoughts parents must beware of entrusting their children to schools in which they cannot receive religious teaching."

AN INFERNAL MACHINE.

Unsuccessful Effort to Destroy a $200,000 Residence in Chicago.

CHICAGO, Dec. 27.—When the servants of the household of Gen. Alexander McClung went about their duties yesterday morning, they discovered an infernal machine with a partially burned fuse on the front steps of the house, near one of the heavy pillars which support the balcony over the entrance. The house is the new $200,000 mansion of Judge Lambert Tree, and was occupied by him up to the time of his departure for Belgium to fill the office of United States minister at that place. The frightened servants placed the machine in the back yard and notified the police of their find. The contrivance was handled very gingerly until it reached the office of an expert in explosives. The gentleman who made the analysis said the box was full of frozen nitro-glycerine, but as the stuff was evidently manufactured by a novice in the business, he was not sure it would explode. In order to settle this point a new fuse was lighted and the party conducting the experiment withdrew to a safe distance to watch the effect. They had scarcely taken a standing position when there was a flash and a loud explosion, and then an upheaval of earth and snow, which ascended a distance of 30 feet. When the can had been removed there was a hole in the frozen ground nearly three feet in depth and two feet in diameter.

"That charge," said the expert, "would have shattered Judge Tree's house, and it might have destroyed his porch entirely had it exploded." It was evidently the intention of the vandal or vandals who placed the infernal machine on the door-steps that it should explode, as the testimony of their intentions was found in the half burnt fuse. The only reason why the plan of the vandals was thwarted was their bungling in placing the fuse, which they wound too tightly around the miniature neck of the can. Otherwise it must have done the fiendish work which they contemplated. "The only explanation I have to offer for the strange affair," said Lieut. Shea, "is that some crazy Socialist attempted it because he could not understand that any man should be permitted to own so handsome a residence as Judge Tree's."

Further Details of the Surprise and Slaughter of Regular Troops.

EL PASO, TEX., Dec. 23.—Parties arrived here from Silver City bringing additional particulars of the disastrous surprise of regular troops last Saturday by a band of Apache guerillas. Two officers and four troopers were killed outright, and two officers dangerously wounded. The detachment comprised thirty-five men all told. They were quietly marching through a rocky defile in the mountains about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when suddenly, without a note of warning, the report of a dozen rifles from the rocks above echoed along the mountains. The red devils had secreted themselves behind high rocks, and there held in wait for the unsuspecting soldiers. The attack was a sudden, no small dismay and fright, that the troops were thrown into a state of great disorder. Their horses became unmanageable, and the little overlooking gateway from the spot as quickly as possible, leaving the dead behind. Recovery of the bodies was impossible, as only the mules that had been in the wagons could be driven back. It is a thing of daily occurrence for Indians to waylay and kill soldiers from behind rocks.

After reaching a point of safety and comparative security the troops rallied and made a stand, but the Indians had disappeared. Not a soldier was killed, and only one Indian is known to have been killed. The dead soldiers will be buried at Fort Bayard.

Important Decision of the Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—In the supreme court, Judge Marshall J. Clarke rendered a decision overruling out of the recent Prohibition election, and held that he could not take action on the bill, which in not yet a law, because the records of the Prohibition election returns, which have been filed with the auditor, who was not a party to the proceedings, and the court has no jurisdiction over him. The decision is a surprise to the lawyers in the city, as it is the first case of the kind that has been decided in the state.

CHURCH RIOTS IN DETROIT.

The Bishop Chased by Angry Poles —Furious Street Fights—One of the Masses Killed.

DETROIT, Dec. 28.—Another outbreak among the Polish parishioners of St. Albertus Catholic church occurred yesterday shortly after morning mass. More than 4,000 people, about one-third of the congregation, were quartered outside the church discussing the report that Bishop Borgess had promised to be present, open the church, and preside at the trouble by giving back to the people their old pastor, Father Kolasinski. The bishop did not appear, and the vast crowd marched to his residence. A committee was selected to notify him of the congregation's desires, but the inmates refused to admit the committee. The bishop escaped by the rear of his house. When the people learned of the bishop's flight they became violent, and in a threatening manner proceeded to St. Joseph's church, where they supposed the prelate was hiding. The police appeared at that moment, followed by another vast delegation of angry Poles. The latter joined their friends, and presented 6,000 strong, to the church. Rev. Leon St. Joseph's was reached a rush was made for the door, but it was found locked. A large man, with a commanding voice, suddenly appeared among the people, and in the Polish tongue counseled quiet. About half of the crowd proceeded homeward, while the others returned to St. Albertus church, where, at 3 o'clock, a great mob made a sudden and savage attack upon the edifice. A large detail of police reinforcing the officers at the church, they routed the assault, and dispersed the rioters.

LATER.—Members of St. Albert's Polish Catholic church began a riot about noon, and are now hotly engaged with the police, a large force of whom are present.

DETROIT, Dec. 27.—The Poles again gathered at the house of Basil Lemke, on St. Auburn avenue, Saturday afternoon. Lemke, at the beginning of the church troubles, increased the adherents of Father Kolasinski. His house was fiercely attacked. Men and women commingled and fought indiscriminately. A detachment swooped down upon the mob, and the patrol wagons were soon loaded with prisoners. A large number of the rioters were seriously hurt. Some of the men had pistols, and attempted to make a stand. Joseph Lewinski, one of the principal rioters, was shot dead. The sight of the police and the killing of Lecciowski subdued the mob, and it was again broken up by the police.

Trouble was anticipated by the police among the Poles this morning, and a force was on hand to quiet any outbreak. A crowd was on hand all day, and once or twice there were mutterings of a coming uproar, but the people were kept moving, and nothing serious resulted. A few arrests were made for drunkenness or rough behavior, but there was no sharp contest between officers of the law and the dissatisfied church people. The crowd was composed largely of sightseers, who had no interest in the church troubles. Several of the police are on duty, but find little to do, the fury of the mob seeming to have spent its force.

DETROIT, Dec. 28.—No trouble has arisen among the riotous Poles to-day. Early this morning a crowd assembled about the Lemke house, but no outbreak resulted. Father Kolasinski, the deposed priest, proposes to contest the legality of the bishop's action, demanding his restoration to the church.

CAPITAL AND LABOR.

An Interesting Report by the Connecticut Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 26.—Arthur T. Hadley, chief of the newly established state bureau of labor statistics, will issue his first report to-morrow. It covers a period of five months ending Nov. 30. The bureau was established by the last legislature. Mr. Hadley has found out a good many things not generally known. The report will create much discussion throughout the country. It says:

"It is found," says the report, "that the men who do the most physical work have the least to show for it, have little independence of action, and are frequently the victims of evils and abuses."

Mr. Hadley's investigations showed that the ordinary estimates of wages, even when most carefully made, almost always were too high. Employers could not be relied on for truthful answers, and employes who did answer the bureau's circulars cannot properly be considered as representing the average earner. "It is almost impossible that trades unions should be judged on their merits squarely by the public. They are apt to be made an instrument of agitation, which is an evil, and leads to bad and inefficient work."

Another thing, the law regards them with disfavor. A fair investigation of trades unions is impossible, because statements on both sides conflict, and he is unable to obtain anything beyond voluntary information. He disapproves of the employment of the unskilled labor of women, children, and the labor of married women, which breaks up the home. Foreign cheap labor should not be encouraged. French Canadians have a standard of living which it would be a misfortune to American workmen to adopt. In this direction Mr. Hadley thinks that matters are slightly improving. Still he predicts that if Italian immigration increases in Connecticut for the next years as it has in the past five, a very perplexing social problem will result. The Italians' expenses are at a minimum; he bears infinite crowding by employers, and he has a simple diet. The piece-work system cannot be abolished. Growing out of it is the contract system in factories, by which owners let out the privilege of getting work out of men to a foreman who makes their wages and supervises their work. There is every danger that its effect upon the vast majority of workmen, who are not contractors and have no hope of becoming contractors, will be bad. The contractor is likely to economize, by crowding down wages to the lowest possible limit.

The demand for weekly payments is extensively made, and in many respects is well founded. Holding back a part of a workman's pay is deplorable, and the necessity not so great as represented. It is done to keep a hold on the employes. The report adds, "Distrust a man and you will do much to make him untrustworthy."

CHRISTMAS TREE ON FIRE.

A Number of Persons Injured—One Man's Coolness Prevents Loss of Life.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—A huge Christmas tree bearing all the kinds of gifts for the patients and attendants at the county hospital, and lavishly illuminated with wax candles, caught fire to-day while a hundred or more people were packed about it. The tree and its contents blazed so furiously that the clothing of some twenty persons caught fire.

A most accurate survey of the situation shows that at least 100 persons were injured, the greater part receiving bruises by being trampled on by other panic-stricken neighbors. A number of children patients had been brought into the chapel in their cots. Before they could be removed, several suffered from the smoke and fright, and one or two were slightly burned. The excitement was intense, and but for the coolness of Warden McGarrigle and some attaches of the hospital, lives would certainly have been lost.

LATER.—The accident is somewhat more serious than at first reported, several persons having been injured in the rush for the door. Over 300 persons were in the chapel when the accident occurred. When the fire started the small room was packed, and Santa Claus was forcing his way through the crowd to the tree to distribute the gifts. Suddenly a wreath of colored paper caught fire from a candle and almost instantly the tree and its contents were a pyramid of flame. The garments of those next to the tree caught fire, and every one rushed to the door in a panic. Before the room was half emptied of the crowd some one with a fire extinguisher subdued the flames and drenched the clothing which had caught fire. Some 60 persons were injured, but none fatally.

The persons most seriously injured were: Miss Wilkinson, a nurse, who inhaled hot air and smoke; Mr. A. G. Bartlett, of the firm of Hibbard, Bartlett & Spencer, crushed with Miss Bartlett, Mrs. A. A. Carpenter, and another lady. The visitors were slightly injured, as also were E. N. May and H. A. McMillan, reporters of the *Tribune* and *Herald* respectively.

Prohibition in Georgia.

ATLANTA, Dec. 24.—This morning, in the

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Suspended Matters.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—The board, consisting of Assistant Commissioner Stockslager, Chief Clerk Walker and Law Clerk LeBarron, designated by Land Commissioner Sparks to examine suspended entries, have reported the first installment of the cases examined by them upon the ex parte proofs of claimants, with the following results: In 216 final homestead entries in Dakota and Nebraska, showing residence for five years, the board has recommended 120 for approval for patent, 53 are held for further evidence, 3 for rejection, and 35 for investigation by special agents. In 35 pre-emption cases examined in the Aberdeen district, Dakota, 1 is recommended for patent, 5 for rejection and 29 for special investigation.

Land Grant Railroads.

In connection with the system of rules prescribed for railroad reports, and as a corollary thereto regulating the office practice with reference to these reports, the secretary of the interior has issued the following order:

"The several reports embraced in the system prescribed March 27, 1885, with reference to the subdivisions and land grant railroads from number 5, to and including number 13, will be kept strictly in personal charge of the commissioner of railroads and subjected to the inspection of no one except himself, the President of the United States, the secretary of the interior or his assistants, and upon regular request or requisition of either house of Congress, or a committee thereof, without an express order of the secretary of the interior. If clerical work thereon or examination thereof be necessary, but it be done under the personal supervision of the commissioner, by a clerk especially assigned to that duty, strictly inhibited from disclosing the contents or any part of the contents thereof."

Germany and the United States.

The annual report of Jacob Mueller, United States consul general at Frankfort-on-the-Maine, Germany, has been received at the State department. He calls attention to the reactionary tendencies prevailing in that country on industrial and commercial relations with the United States, which tendencies, he says, explain the ill-will of the official and ruling spheres against the United States. They dread, he says, American hogs, wheat and American imports generally, but still more the importation of American ideas. Not only is the tendency to retrogression noticeable, he says, in political economy and religious spheres of life, but barriers standing between mankind are also fastened and multiplied to such an extent that the spirit of cast is again becoming prominent and the feudal system resurrected. He alludes to these tendencies as the principal reason for the prevailing anti-Americanism, and in order that our government may be prepared not to anticipate from official Germany or Austria hostile acts as they are to American liberty and prosperity, any gratuitous accusations. The consul reports that the depressed state of trade and industry in Germany has continued during the year and that the new tariff system has proved a failure. The declared value of exports from Germany to the United States during 1884 amounted to $59,763,744, a decrease of

commission, and said report will be accompanied by the original papers of the examination, and it shall be lawful for the officer having the power of appointment or employment to appoint or employ said person in the public service.

The Rights of Soldiers.

Commissioner Sparks, of the general land office, has written a letter to a law firm in Kansas, in which he discusses the contents of a circular purporting to have been issued by the parties addressed. The commissioner says of the circular that it "contains false and misleading statements in reference to the rights of soldiers of the late war to public lands," and allows the alleged authors of the circular 30 days in which to make a satisfactory explanation, failing in which they will be debarred from practicing before the department.

Among the statements in the circular to which the commissioner takes exception are: "The government owes each soldier and sailor a farm of 160 acres."

This, says the Commissioner, is a statement that all soldiers and sailors of the late war, as such, are entitled to 160 acres, which is not true. "The widows and orphans of deceased soldiers and sailors can make entries and secure 160 acres of choice lands without residence;" the commissioner considers this assertion misleading.

Land Office Rulings.

Commissioner Sparks, of the land office, in view of the almost universal comment as to his policy, has been constrained to issue a new series of regulations for registers, receivers and special agents of the land office, which have just been promulgated. They modify in many important particulars his recent sweeping orders. They provide that homestead or pre-emption claimants who have made bona fide settlements upon public lands and who are living upon, cultivating and improving the same, in accordance with law, with the intention of acquiring title thereto, shall be permitted to cut and remove from the portion to be cleared for cultivation so much timber as is actually necessary for that purpose or buildings, fences or other improvements on the land entered, clearing for cultivation, should there be a surplus of timber, the entry made may dispose of such surplus, but it is not allowable to denude the land of its timber for the purpose of sale of speculation before the title has been conveyed to him by patent.

Instructions to Collectors of Customs.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The treasury department is informed the collector of customs at Portland, Or., that shipments to Alaska of arms and ammunition other than breech-loading rifles and fixed ammunition therefor, mentioned in the President's prohibitory order, are to be treated as shipment of any merchandise. The Collector at San Francisco has been instructed that all woolen jersey jackets are dutiable as "knit goods," and are not subject to the duty at 6 cents per pound and 40 cents ad valorem.

A Treat for the Children.

Fourteen hundred poor children yesterday enjoyed the hospitality of that charming charity organization known as the Children's Christmas club, of which Miss Mollie Vilas, daughter of the Postmaster General, is president, and Miss Nellie Arthur, daughter of the ex-President, one of the vice presidents, and which every year furnishes a Christmas dinner and gifts to the children of the poor at this city. Each of the fourteen hundred children was given an excellent dinner, box of candy and a Christmas card. The tables were presided over by the daughters of the most prominent citizens, and Miss Mollie Vilas and Miss Nellie Arthur personally superintended the giving out of the presents. President and Miss Cleveland and many other people well known in society attended the entertainment.

The New York Sub-Treasury.

No determination has yet been reached in the matter of filling the prospective vacancy in the New York sub-treasurer's office, that will occur upon the expiration of Mr. Acton's commission on Dec. 31. It was rumored around the treasury department that Treas. Jordon would go to New York and care for the office until a permanent appointment could be made. There are doubts expressed as to Mr. Jordon's authority to discharge the duties of the sub-treasurer at the White House. It is said that no appointment can be made before the reassembling of Congress, and the treasury department is expected to provide against any interruption of business at the New York subtreasury.

Civil Service Examination.

There will be a competitive examination before the civil service commission, at this office in Washington, D. C., Jan. 8, at 10 a. m., for positions of principal examiners in the pension office, salary $2,000 per year. The examination may extend to all the subjects in the examination for both medical examiners and medical reviewers, and will certainly include most of them. Application blanks must be requested from the commission, and should be filled out in due form and filed with it on or before January 7. The commission will supply circulars showing the subjects of the examinations, and will very soon hold examinations elsewhere for applicants who may not find it convenient to attend the examination at Washington.

The Hendricks Monument.

Sen. Voorhees has received the following letter from the President:

MY DEAR SIR—I understand that a movement is on foot to erect a monument to the memory of the late Vice President, and that it is to be a tribute to his worth and services on the part of his friends and associates. This project is so fitting and appropriate that it seems to me that it must meet with general approval. My relations with Mr. Hendricks, both personal and official, were such that it would be a source of much satisfaction to me to see this good work promptly begun, and at the proper time I hope I may be allowed to aid in the undertaking.

Yours, sincerely,
GROVER CLEVELAND.

In reply to the President's communication, Sen. Voorhees wrote as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your highly esteemed favor. On behalf of the immediate personal friends of the late Vice President, and of the great body of the people of Indiana, I feel authorized to tender you their very grateful and sincere thanks for your kind sentiments in a movement so honorable to his memory and so well earned by his public services and his private virtues. Permit me to assure you that no act on your part, in the midst of your incessant labors for the public good, will be largely cherished or more highly prized by the people of this state than your sympathy in their effort to erect a monument to his fame. With the highest respect and warmest personal regard, I am,

Very faithfully yours,
D. W. VOORHEES.

Notes.

Public-printer Rounds denies the rumor that the President has requested his resignation.

During November past 20,145 immigrants arrived in this country, against 25,147 in November, 1884.

A resolution will be introduced in Congress calling on Sec. Endicott to give his authority for promulgating what is known in army circles as the side-de-camp order.

It is counted among the probabilities that when the Senate reassembles Sen. Evarts will make a speech upon the silver question which will much resemble that of Sen. Beck.

According to a Washington newspaper the resignation of Controller of the Currency Cannon has been in the hands of the President for some time, and its acceptance has been urged as soon as Mr. Cleveland can find a successor, Mr. Cannon having accepted a more lucrative position in a New York bank.

It is reported that Justice Miller, of the United States Supreme court, holds that under the tenure-of-office act the President cannot remove an official without the consent of the Senate, and in case the Senate refuses to confirm nominations made to succeed suspended officials the latter are restored to office until their successors are confirmed.

THE COLORED RACE.

The Nashville Exposition—Remarks of J. M. Langston.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 26.—An immense assemblage of negroes gathered in St. John's Colored Methodist Episcopal church, on the occasion of the opening of the first exposition given by that race, and as a mark of esteem for J. M. Langston, late minister to Hayti. Owing to the length of the preliminary exercises, Mr. Langston was not introduced until a late hour. He commenced his address by congratulating the colored people on the progress the race had made since the emancipation proclamation. He drew a comparison between slaves that had been liberated years before those of the American continent, and said that the American negroes had advanced more in half 25 years than others had in a long period of liberty. Mr. Langston said he was the first negro on the American continent to speak from a platform to those of his own race, who had waged bitter war against fearful odds, and won. In conclusion Mr. Langston urged renewed efforts on the part of the negro to attain a still higher standard.

[illegible], a New Jersey village, has been disturbed with a ghost, [illegible] from talk clothed in [illegible] to [illegible] or dead.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The Balkan War.

PRINCE ALEXANDER.

SOFIA, Dec. 27.—Prince Alexander entered Sofia to-day at the head of six regiments of infantry, one regiment of cavalry and three batteries of artillery. He was received with great enthusiasm by the inhabitants. The city was gaily decked with flags and to-night is brilliantly illuminated. Many banners bearing patriotic inscriptions were displayed at various points along the line of march. One of these reads: "Honor and glory to the victors of Slivnitza, Dragoman Pass, Tzaribrod and Pirok."

SECRETLY ARMING.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—It is stated here that Russia and Austria are secretly arming, and that both those countries have sent orders to England for large quantities of stores for their respective armies.

Great Britain.

THE IRISH QUESTION.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The London office of the Loyal Irish union has issued a manifesto calling on the people to make a united effort to thwart the attempt of Parnellites to drive the country into civil war. The programme urged by the union is as follows: That Ireland be given a form of local self-government on a broad and equitable basis, with representation in parliament by a secretary and under secretary, chosen by Irish members; that denomination universities and schools be assisted by the government; that a permanent royal viceroy be appointed, to reside in the viceregal castle at Dublin; that Irish industries be encouraged by the allotment to Irish manufacturers of a share in government work; that Irish fisheries be protected; that harbors and ports be improved, and that judicious assistance be given by means of loans to railways and public works, this last provision to be controlled by a central board of works.

Mr. Forster, formerly chief secretary for Ireland, denounces the scheme attributed to Mr. Gladstone for Irish home rule. He declares the concession of home rule to Ireland, or of an Irish parliament, or of Irish independence in any form, would not solve the problem, and would be fraught with danger both to Great Britain and to Ireland.

The queen visits Ireland of Lord Richard Grosvenor, who was a government official under the administration of Mr. Gladstone, gave rise to a rumor that his object was to consult with Irish leaders on behalf of Mr. Gladstone. In an interview, however, Sir Richard said he went to Ireland merely for a week's shooting, that he saw neither Parnell nor any of his colleagues, and that he never spoke to any one on the subject of home rule for Ireland.

Earl Roseberry, who was a member of Mr. Gladstone's cabinet, writes that he is willing to concede home rule to Ireland on condition that the union be maintained.

Mr. Furnell has sent a letter to his colleagues with reference to the party's program. He says that it would be unwise at present for tri-nationalists to formulate their demands, and that they will therefore play a waiting game and watch the course of events.

James O'Kelly, nationalist M. P. for Roscommon, said in an interview to-day that there was now a good opportunity for settling the question of home rule; that Mr. Gladstone could confer an enormous benefit on England and Ireland, and that no one was more competent than Gladstone to solve the Irish problem.

The Irish party will hold a meeting in January to decide on their policy in the coming parliament.

Mr. Herbert Gladstone, son of the ex-prime minister, and member of Parliament for the west division of Leeds, has written a letter to a new association, in the course of which he says: "I hear that the Tories will wash their hands of Parnell, now they have got the benefit of the Irish vote in elections. Party warfare is the only method of getting justice for Ireland."

DUBLIN, Dec. 22.—A meeting of the Irish national league was held in Dublin to-day. Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M. C., made an address, in which, referring to the opposition of the Orangemen and other loyalists, he characterized those who were clamoring against home rule as bigoted fanatics.

THE CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE PRINCE OF WALES.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—A magesterial examination of the case of John and Sarah Magee, who were arrested on the 18th inst., at Kennington, on the charge of attempting to procure money from the Prince of Wales by writing threatening letters, was held today. The letters referred to stated that four men had bargained to murder the Prince of Wales, and the Magees offered to inform on the intended assassins, provided they were given £1,000 and a free pardon. The detectives who were detailed to work up the case, met the Magees by appointment and gave them a package containing 500 farthings. This was done to lead the prisoners into believing that their request was being fully complied with, so that the detectives might get the whole story from the Magees and see if there was any truth in it. On Magee discovering that the package contained farthings, he upbraided the prince for his treachery, demanded £1,500, and threatened to shoot the policemen who arrested him. The crown prosecutor, believing that Mrs. Magee was innocent of the conspiracy, and that she was entirely under the influence of her husband, withdrew the charge against her, and she was discharged from custody. It was proved by a draft of the letters found in Magees pocketbook that the letters were in his hand writing. He was committed for trial.

THE IRISH PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Mr. Michael Davitt, in an interview to-day respecting home rule for Ireland, said: "The alleged proposals of Mr. Gladstone, recently published, are a good basis for a settlement of the Irish question. I advocate Daniel O'Connell's plan for a minority representation in the Irish Parliament. I would give 75 seats to the Lovalists and 225 to the Parnellites. The police should be disarmed. Irish landlords would be impossible under an Irish Parliament."

"THE IRISH DIFFICULTY."

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The *Times* in an editorial, without advocating such extreme means, suggests that the Irish difficulty could be solved in three months by the exclusion of the Parnellites from the House of Commons and the proclamation of martial law in Ireland.

It is reported that the government intends to prosecute one of the recently-elected Irish members of Parliament, for a speech made at a national league meeting at Cork, on the ground that the language used on the occasion tended to incite his hearers to commit murder.

THE CONGO RAILROAD.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—A contract has been signed granting a concession for a railway from the upper to the lower Congo, to the Manchester & Congo railroad company. The first issue of the company's stock will be £1,000,000, for which a subscription will be opened at an early date.

SHEEHAN'S ADVICE.

DUBLIN, Dec. 29.—P. Sheehan, member-elect of Parliament for East Kerry, has advised the tenantry of Killarney not to pay rents to the landlords, because an Irish Parliament will allot the land to them free, and will not compensate the landlords.

PARNELL'S POWER.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The *Economist*, referring to the political situation, says: "The Tories and Liberals have drawn nearer together, and have resolved to reject the crude proposal for an independent Irish Parliament. The British Parliament is still master of itself. Mr. Parnell has undertaken a hopeless and impossible task in attempting to make 85 members dictate to 554 members."

GLADSTONE'S BIRTHDAY.

HAWARDEN, Dec. 29.—To-day is the 76th anniversary of the birth of the Right Hon. William E. Gladstone. During the morning he was the recipient of 400 letters congratulating him on having attained his 76th year. Mr. Gladstone left his residence at daybreak and walked to the village church, where special services were held. Notwithstanding that sleet and snow were falling, the walk did not seem to fatigue Mr. Gladstone, as he appeared quite hearty when returning home after the services.

THE IRISH QUESTION.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Lord Randolph Churchill, secretary of state for India, is now in Ireland. It is thought that his visit is for the purpose of obtaining information bearing on the Irish question, to be used at a cabinet council to be held shortly.

France.

FRANCE AND MADAGASCAR.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—It is stated that Queen Ranavalo declared to Admiral Miot last July that she would never consent to the establishment of a French protectorate in Madagascar. M. de Freycinet sent M. Patrimonio ostensibly as French consul to Zanzibar, but really on a mission with a revised draft of the treaty with the Malagasys, which treaty was agreed to, with the exception of three articles of minor importance. The *Temps*, the *Parvis* and the *Liberti*, all refer in the highest terms to the success of M. de Freycinet in the settlement of the Madagascar troubles.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—A government dispatch from Madagascar says: Peace between France and Madagascar has been concluded. It is reported that the treaty gives France a protectorate over the whole of Madagascar, and that there will be a French resident at Tananarive, who will be surrounded with [illegible] guard. [illegible] will occupy Tamatave until a war indemnity of 10,000,000 francs is paid.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* says: "By the treaty of peace between France and Madagascar the former virtually abandons her pretensions in Madagascar, and the ruler of the Hovas is recognized as the sovereign of the whole island. The statements about a French protectorate and a war indemnity are erroneous. The draft of the treaty does not mention a protectorate, while the so-called indemnity is intended to reimburse Europeans whose property has been damaged by the war, and not a penny of it will enter the French treasury."

FRENCH DEFEATED BY HOVAS.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The *Daily News* publishes a letter from Antanora river, the capital of Madagascar, giving an account of a French attack upon the Hovas on September 10, outside of Tamatave. It says that after seven hours of desperate fighting the French were compelled to retire with a loss of 60 men. Not a single Frenchman succeeded in mounting the earthworks of the Hovas. The letter further says that the Hovas gained a victory over the French and their Sakotiva allies in the north. The French commander was killed and the army fled in confusion, leaving 40 dead.

FRENCH POLITICS.

PARIS, Dec. 28.—M. Francis Jules P. Grevy was re-elected President of the French republic to-day, in the joint vote of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, acting as a National assembly. The ballotting was carried on amid great excitement. Only five members of the right cast ballots. Mr. Grevy's total majority was 135.

The proceedings in the Chamber began at 1:15, amid considerable excitement. The president of the National assembly was unable to restore silence. The members of the right became so turbulent that the President threatened to suspend the sitting. The members of the Right then asked for time to speak before the vote was taken, and, their request being refused, several of them tried to gain the tribune.

A fight ensued between a member of the left and one of the right. Several blows were exchanged before the combatants could be separated by their friends. A lull in the demonstration then followed, and the balloting took place.

PARIS, Dec 28.—The second ballots were held yesterday in the department of the Seine for six seats in the chamber of deputies, to fill vacancies caused by options for other constituencies. The vote was as follows: Radicals 172,000. Opportunists 104,000, Conservatives 93,000. (At the first election on Sunday, December 13th, the six Radical candidates polled from 150,900 to 120,000 votes each, the Opportunists came next, then the Conservatives and the moderate Republicans brought up the rear. As no candidate secured the absolute majority, requisite another election was ordered for yesterday. Since the 13th a fusion of the Opportunists and modern Republicans has taken place, and it was expected that they combined, would muster 150,000 votes yesterday. There were 381,000 votes cast at the election on the 13th, and then it was estimated that 100,000 electors stayed away from the polls.

Germany.

BERLIN, Dec. 24.—The foreign office has notified Mr. Pendleton, the American minister, that it is intended to expel the German-Americans residing at Schleswig, who emigrated to the United States just before becoming liable to military service, and returned after being naturalized. The recent order of expulsion of other German-Americans remains suspended.

THE POPE'S ALLOCUTION.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The *Chronicle* this morning has a dispatch from Berlin, according to which it appears that the recent allocution of Pope Leo XIII. has not been received with favor at the German capitol. The tone of the allocution, it is thought, shows that the pretensions of the Vatican have been encouraged by the deference which was shown to it in asking the Pope to mediate between Spain and Germany in the Carolines.

Italy.

ROME, Dec. 24.—The Pope gave a Christmas reception to-day to the cardinals in Rome. He complained of the present trying position of the Pope in Rome, and said it would ever be so until Rome was given back to the Vatican. His holiness, in an encyclical letter, proclaims 1886 a year of jubilee.

Turkey.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 23.—Mr. Cox, United States minister, has begun negotiations with the Porte for a naturalization treaty by which citizens of Turkey and the United States will have equal rights in both countries.

Cuba.

HAVANA, Dec. 24.—Col. Berlben, the officer who recently attempted to incite a rebellion in the Manicarigua district, has been condemned to death. The bishop of the diocese is soliciting the authorities to pardon him.

CIVIL SERVICE RULES.

Some Important Modifications Approved by Pres. Cleveland.

NEW YORK, Dec 28.—A Washington special to the *Post* says: The animated contest now going on at the confirmation of the Postmaster of Chicago, has incidentally brought out the interesting fact that important modifications in the civil service rules, approved by the President as long ago as November 27, have only just reached the Civil Service commissioners, and are yet in the hands of the printers, and not yet promulgated. Among the rules thus modified are the following: That the local boards of examiners shall in future only certify three names to the appointing officer, and no name can be certified to him more than three times, except by special request of the appointing officer. Under the old rules the names were to be certified four times, and the appointing officer was obliged to appoint four out of seven names certified to him, while now he will appoint three out of six. This makes it easier to get rid of persons thought not fit for appointment.

It is further required that two of the persons vouching for the applicant must be residents of the city in which the service is to be rendered. This is designed to discourage applications from persons residing outside of the place of appointment. Quite a number of other interesting changes of detail are made. The changes will be promulgated in a few days.

Gen. Grant's Tomb.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Battery M of the 5th United States artillery, on duty at Riverside Park, spent yesterday in routine duty, as usual. About 10:30 a. m., Mrs. Grant and Col. Fred Grant drove up in a carriage and alighted at the tomb. On the gate they fastened a heavy wreath of flowers. When they had gone a white-haired ex-soldier from Texas, Ill., begged permission of officer Fanning, which was accorded, to kiss the wreath left by Mrs. Grant. Another gentleman from San Francisco was affected to tears, and asked to be allowed to cut some blades of grass near the tomb. A lady offered $10 for a flower from the wreath, but of course was refused. It is a common thing for the guard to be tempted in this way by offers of money.

Whisky vs. Beer.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—An evening paper says that on account of a refusal on the part of the brewers of this state to oppose a bill pending in the state legislature, making the whisky license $1,000, and the beer license $250, war is about to be declared by the liquor men against beer; that they threaten to refuse to sell malt liquors in whisky saloons, and to call to their aid the distilling interests, not only in the state, but elsewhere in the country. The paper predicts a very fierce war between these two branches of liquor interests, and of next to control. It states that numerous attempts have been made to compromise their differences, but without success, and that a final meeting concerning the outcome of which little hope is entertained, will be held next week.

Fatal Case of Blood-Poisoning.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 26.—A peculiar case of blood-poisoning, attended with fatal results, has occurred in this city. About a week ago Mrs. L. A. Bradley, while dressing a fish for cooking, punctured her thumb with one of the fins. Shortly afterward her arm began to swell and inflammation set in, extending throughout the whole system. She died yesterday after terrible suffering, and her husband is now in a critical condition, he having been poisoned by a cut from a razor which he had used to remove a piece of flesh from his wife's thumb. The fish was fresh, but the fin is supposed to have come in contact with decayed animal matter.

Parnell Cannot Come.

LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 24.—Patrick Egan, president of the Irish National League of America, has received a cablegram from Hon. P. M. Harrington, M. P., secretary of the National League in Ireland, in which Mr. Harrington states that Mr. Parnell will not be able to attend the League convention in Chicago in January next, and that he is inclined to think it best to postpone the convention until after the meeting of Parliament in February.

The [illegible] crop report of the Georgia Agricultural society says the cotton crop is [illegible] than last year, and that there will be [illegible] bales marketed at Thanksgiving, they [illegible] stored with [illegible] and [illegible] for [illegible]

INDIANS AND BLOODHOUNDS.

A War of Extermination Against Apaches—Roman Nose to be Tried for Murder.

DEMING, N. M., Dec. 24.—Leading citizens of Silver City held a meeting yesterday to devise means for prosecuting a war of extermination against the murderous Apaches. It was at first thought the government would purchase 40 or 50 bloodhounds to track the Indians, both Gens. Crook and Bradley favoring the proposition as the only really available means of pursuing the Indians. Word was received from there that the army officers were willing to recommend the employment of bloodhounds, but thought it would be several months before the War department would act upon their recommendation. Upon learning this, the citizens called a meeting, and determined to raise money by subscription for the purchase of a pack of bloodhounds, and for again equipping and putting the local militia in the field. Wealthy ranchmen in attendance pledged over $3,000 for the purchase of bloodhounds. It was also determined to raise a picked company of 100 experienced Indian fighters from the several districts of the territory, who will immediately take the field and camp again the remainder of the winter.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Dec. 24.—The Indian chief Roman Nose, who is confined in the guard house at Fort Leavenworth, is to be turned over to the civil authorities. During the commencement of the outbreak in the territory last spring he murdered a white woman, for which he was arrested and brought to Fort Leavenworth in June. The attorney general has instructed District Attorney Perry, of Kansas, to proceed against him in the Federal courts, on the charge of murder. He will be placed in the county jail here to await trial. Roman Nose is half Sioux and half Cheyenne, and was for a long time the chief medicine man of the Cheyennes, and wielded a great influence over them.

HELP FOR IRELAND.

New York Irishmen Enthusiastic over the Prospect—What Parnell Says.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Five hundred patriotic Irishmen assembled last evening in the old church of the Paulist Fathers, to give another lift to the Parnell Parliament fund. Fathers Elliott, McMillan, Burke and Doyle were present. During the course of his speech, Father Doyle said he had just returned from Ireland. In a conversation with Mr. Parnell, the leader said that after Ireland secured her independence, a protective tariff would be necessary to enable her to get started in business. Finally, Father Doyle took two $5 bills from his pocket and held them up. He said it was all the money he had in the world. The bills were a Christmas present. His superior had given him permission to do with them what he pleased, so he would give them to Parnell.

Gen. O'Berne said: "No matter how great the strain in the coming fight, the golden stream must be kept flowing over the sea. When home rule is established, we in America will buy wares in Ireland, when her market is the same as that of other nations, in order that our sympathy may be effective in rebuilding the nation."

Another large meeting of Irishmen was held in Brooklyn. A speaker said: "The intercourse of the Irish people with the English has broken down the bars of prejudice, and made it possible for a better understanding of each other's rights. The establishment of home rule would be the establishment of a Republican form of government in Great Britain. Fully half the there is an understanding between Parnell, Davitt and Dillons, and that when the end comes, there will be seen in Dublin a monument to Gladstone."

An Infidel on the Witness Stand.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Yesterday a new point of law under the constitution of 1870 of the state of Illinois, was raised in the trial of the case of the State against Robt. Hertel, charged with fraud and conspiracy. It was claimed that he had defrauded certain people out of $3,000. Mr. Eugene Prussing was an essential witness, and the prosecution would fail without his evidence. When he was called, defendant's counsel, Mr. Dikman, interrogated him as to his competency.

Mr. Dikman—"Do you believe in the inspiration of the holy Scriptures?"

Mr. Prussing—"No, sir."

Dikman—"Do you believe in the everlasting God?"

Prussing—"No, sir."

Defendant's counsel claimed that under the laws of Illinois Prussing was not a competent witness and read the statute, the constitution and several rulings upon the question. The state's attorney and Judge Shepard were both taken by surprise, and the question was held under advisement.

To day Judge Shepard in court said the question was one of great importance and should receive longer study. If the position of the defense was correct a large number of people would be incapacitated as witnesses. He was inclined to believe that the constitution of 1870 stepped in to aid this class of persons. He would decide that Mr. Prussing was competent to testify. The defense noted an exception, and the question will go to the Supreme court of Illinois.

The Tail of the Comet.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 27.—Prof. Brook, of Phelps, announcing the discovery of another comet. It is in the constellation of Aquilla, which in the early evening is low in the southwest. The new comet is situated about six degrees south of Alpha, and is described as "brightest" and having a slow easterly motion. This discovery secures to Prof. Brooks the second Warner prize of $200 for 1885. Prof. Swift last evening observed Barnards and the Paris comets. He also found a star of the sixth magnitude. Barnard comet has a tail